

U.S. shies away from live-fire games

EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA (R) — The United States is shying away from live-fire exercises on a big scale in the Gulf because of sensitivities over casualties, defence analysts said Sunday. "I guess they're sensitive to taking casualties during an exercise of this kind. They could have 20 to 30 guys wounded or killed, and Washington is very sensitive to casualties," said independent U.S. military analyst Ken Brower. Up to now, live-firing exercises among U.S. forces assembled in the Gulf have been restricted to small units on weapons ranges, while troops on full-scale manoeuvres have used blanks. Several analysts in Europe and the United States argued that while large-scale training involving live artillery and air strikes could kill, lives would be saved later in actual combat. NATO and Warsaw Pact forces have traditionally carried out combined-arms, live-fire exercises as part of their annual training cycles to coordinate large numbers of men moving rapidly on the modern battlefield.

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Happy New Year

The **Jordan Times** will not be published on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 1991, due to the New Year holiday on Monday. The next issue of the paper will appear on Wednesday, Jan. 2. The **Jordan Times** wishes its readers, advertisers and patrons a very happy New Year.

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AMMAN MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1990, JUMA'DAH AL THANI 13, 1411

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Brotherhood opposes seasonal celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — Parliament members of the Muslim Brotherhood have submitted a note to Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat criticising celebrations and parties organised at hotels, clubs and restaurants at Christmas. The deputies considered these celebrations and also advertising for them in the local press as "contradicting the faith of the nation and its dignity and not a proper thing to be done under the present circumstances through which the Arab and Islamic countries are going and contrary to the government's promise to apply the Islamic law in the Kingdom." The deputies demanded that the government immediately ban such celebrations and stop all advertising for them in the local press and the information media.

Arab ministers to meet on Gulf crisis

CAIRO (R) — The foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia will hold their fourth meeting on the Gulf crisis next Friday, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry source said Sunday. The foreign ministers, whose countries are grouped in an anti-Iraq alliance after Baghdad's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, had postponed a scheduled meeting this month. The Gulf crisis meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Friday follows talks in Cairo Dec. 4.

Iran's first test-tube babies born

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's first test-tube babies were born in the city of Yazd in central Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported Sunday. The agency said the first baby, a girl, was born to 36-old woman at the city's Asfar Yazd University Hospital Saturday morning. An hour later, another woman gave birth to twins, a girl and a boy. Dr. Abbas Afshar, head of the infertility research centre at the hospital, said the births were by caesarean section, and that all three babies and their mothers were in "perfect condition," IRNA reported. Afshar said that during the centre's year-long fertilization and insemination programmes, 30 successful pregnancies had been registered.

Bomb threat at U.S. press HQ

RIYADH (AP) — The hotel housing the press centre for the U.S. military command in Saudi Arabia was evacuated late Saturday night after a telephoned bomb threat, a U.S. military spokesman said Sunday. Saudi police who spent about two hours searching the Hyatt Regency Hotel "found nothing," said Michael Gallagher. The threat was the first reported since U.S. forces began deploying in Saudi Arabia Aug. 7. The threat came less than 24 hours before U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle was scheduled to arrive for a three-day visit to U.S. forces.

Eurodif to pay Iran \$185 million

NICOSIA (AP) — The French consortium Eurodif must pay 940 million francs (\$185 million), to Iran. Tehran Radio reported Sunday. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said Iran's international interests office in Paris disclosed that the French-based uranium enrichment consortium must pay \$480 million francs immediately, and the rest by the end of 1992. From the radio report, it was not clear by what ruling Eurodif was ordered to pay the sum. A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said he was unaware of any such decision. "The order pertains to the dispute which the Islamic Republic of Iran filed against Eurodif," the radio said. The payment is part of a billion-dollar loan Iran made to Eurodif in 1974, and which it has been trying to recover since the 1979 revolution.

Cabinet reshuffle said imminent

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Several members of the Cabinet have submitted their resignations to Prime Minister Mudar Badran ahead of a government reshuffle, expected as early as today, informed sources said Sunday.

The five chosen by the prime were identified as deputies Yousef Al Athem, Abdullah Akaylah and Majed Khalifeh and Brotherhood activists Adnan Al Jalouji and Ibrahim Al Kefani.

Two prominent leaders of the movement — Ishaq Al Farhan

and Ahmad Quteish Al Azaydeh — will not be included in the new cabinet because the Muslim Brotherhood wants to retain them in the leadership council.

"The Brotherhood does not allow one of its leaders to become a member of the government," said a source.

"I would not attack any significance to the resignations other than that they are routinely submitted by government members whenever they think there is an impending cabinet reshuffle."

The source confirmed that

(Continued on page 2)

House passes defence law after scaling down government powers

By Abdulla Hasanat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After much haggling and obvious dissent in government ranks, the Lower House of Parliament Sunday passed two key bills, the exports and imports law, and the defence law.

While the first law gave the government full authority to control all exports and imports, the second, as amended by the Lower House, curbed the executive branch's powers to impose emergency laws on the country.

In two key articles, the government's right to invoke the defence law and to compensate those affected by its application was curtailed. The House passed an amendment to the law that gives Parliament the authority to revoke the law within 15 days of its application.

The defence law, according to legal experts, is a static law that only becomes active in cases prescribed in the law itself and when the country is subject to external threat or internal strife.

The amendment to article 2 of the law sparked a prolonged debate on the constitutionality of sub-article (c) proposed by the House Legal Committee.

Members of the National Bloc attempted to repeat the amendment, but the Legal Committee proposed that the article be put to the Higher Council for Constitution Interpretation, but his motion was not seconded.

The second point of contention in the law was article 9, which, as proposed by the government, authorizes the prime minister to compensate those who suffer damage through the application of the law.

The Legal Committee proposed that any sufferer could go to court

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Baghdad still awaiting 'constructive' proposals

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Sunday that he had yet to receive any "effective and constructive" proposals to resolve the Gulf crisis, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

"Iraq has and still considers that a solution to the Palestinian cause is the key to resolving the region's problems in a comprehensive manner," he was quoted as telling Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar at a

meeting in Baghdad.

Loncar is visiting Baghdad on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement in an 11-hour bid to avert a Gulf war. The United Nations Security Council has ordered Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait by Jan. 15 or face force.

Saddam said the key to a settlement was his Aug. 12 "initiative" which links setting up a Palestinian state and discussions on the Gulf crisis.

"Iraq has not received any

effective and constructive proposals from the international parties towards a peaceful settlement of the region's problems," INA quoted him as saying.

A meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz was cancelled earlier this month after Baghdad fixed Jan. 12 for a visit to Baghdad by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

(Continued on page 2)

Saddam assails Bush and Fahd in New Year message

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein attacked U.S. President George Bush and Saudi King Fahd on Sunday in a tough 20-minute New Year message which did not once mention Kuwait.

In a televised broadcast, Saddam said good and evil were battling for supremacy in the world.

"...In this confrontation those who betrayed the teachings of Jesus Christ... have been trapped by the devil... may God

curse them all," he said.

He said Bush betrayed the teachings of Christ in the same way that Judas betrayed Jesus.

Saudi King Fahd, custodian of Islam's two holiest shrines, should be called "the traitor of the two holy mosques" for letting foreign troops into the kingdom, Saddam said.

The New Year message linked the "renegades and hypocrites (who) betrayed Islam" to the Saudi king, whose country hosts most of the half-million strong

(Continued on page 2)

Iraq has built oil pipeline, trenches around Kuwait

AMMAN (R) — Iraq has built an oil pipeline and dug huge trenches in Kuwait along the Gulf coast and near the Saudi border in a bid to erect a wall of fire around the emirate in case of war, travellers from Kuwait said Sunday.

A resident of Kuwait with extensive contacts there said a highly placed Kuwaiti oil industry official had said that Iraq had built a pipeline along the coast from the Ahmadi oil installation to Khafji, near the Saudi border.

Another traveller with access to military zones had seen a similar pipeline running along a trench, five metres wide and five metres deep, along the border with Saudi Arabia, he said.

The pipeline, with valves at regular intervals, carried crude oil from the Ahmadi oil installa-

tions, about 30 kilometres from Kuwait City, and was intended to discharge oil which could be set alight in case of war, the sources said.

U.S.-dominated forces in the Gulf are gearing up for possible war against Baghdad if its troops do not leave Kuwait by the Jan. 15 deadline set by the U.N. Security Council.

The oil source said only two small oil fields were operating in Kuwait. Ahmadi, the only operating refinery, had been producing about 80,000 barrels a day, enough for Kuwait's internal needs, before a decision by Iraq last week to increase daily production to about 200,000 barrels.

The sources said Iraq had placed landmines in oil fields and along the newly built pipeline. The Kuwaiti resident told

(Continued on page 2)

Reuters that he had seen buried tanks, huge gun nests and barbed wire barriers along the coast built up over the past month. Iraq had taken over and reinforced villas at strategic sites in Kuwait to use as military sites.

"They've taken some mansions that overlook highways and covered them up with mortar and bricks," he said.

Iraq has abolished the Kuwait Petroleum Company, the parent company of Kuwait's state-owned firms which was engaged in oil marketing, but maintained the Kuwait Oil Company, which is now directed by the Iraqi oil minister.

It also abolished the Petrochemical Industries Company and shut down its fertilizer plant but is running a salt and chlorine plant at full capacity, the sources said.

(Continued on page 2)



The Upper House of Parliament in session Sunday (Petra photo)



Senate approves budget for 1991

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Sunday endorsed the state budget for the year 1991 at a meeting, chaired by Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and cabinet ministers.

The Senate's financial committee member Hamid Al Farhan read out the committee's report on behalf of the committee's rapporteur, Khalil Al Salem.

The report paid tribute to the Finance Committee of the Lower House for its comments on revenue estimates and expenditure and recommendations. It also praised the government for its efforts in preparing a precise and objective budget, "which can serve as a working paper

to deal with the crisis Jordan is currently passing through."

The report outlined the enormous losses the Jordanian economy has incurred as a result of the observance of the United Nations Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on Iraq.

The report voiced satisfaction with the government's performance and achievements during the year 1990, and noted in particular the achievements during the first part of the year, saying that such achievements had exceeded the target goals.

These achievements included a cut in expenditure, increase in revenues, application of austerity measures, rationalisation of consumption and expansion in basic services such as

Violence rages in occupied lands, dozens wounded

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Large-scale violence continued in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and dozens of Palestinians were reportedly shot and wounded by Israeli soldiers.

Curfews kept some 250,000 Palestinians indoors throughout the Gaza Strip.

Israel imposed the curfews to prevent violence after clashes with soldiers in the Gaza Strip Saturday left four Palestinians dead and 90 wounded, according to the military command.

In the West Bank town of Yaab, three Palestinian

known as collaborators with Israel opened fire on the Arab activists stoning them and killed Rabiya Hamarshe, 26, Arab and media reports said.

Many collaborators receive arms from Israel for protection.

In Rafah, where Saturday's violence initiated, stone-covered streets were deserted except for army patrols and one burning tyre.

One little boy waved a victory "V" sign at reporters and photographers from behind the grill of his window.

(Continued on page 2)

EC to hold emergency talks on Gulf Friday

PARIS (Agencies) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers will hold emergency talks on the Gulf crisis next Friday, only 11 days before the U.N. deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman could not say whether a new diplomatic drive would be discussed, but diplomatic sources in Bonn said the meeting in Luxembourg was expected to reaffirm European solidarity with Washington.

"It all depends on the Americans: We are open, we are flexible, we are ready to take the road to peace, (unlike) the Americans who say something and block it immediately. They are the ones who block dialogue and negotiations, not us."

Mashat, speaking to reporters at Amman airport upon his arrival from Baghdad after 10 days of consultations with President Saddam Hussein and 15 other Iraqi envoys from around the world, said despite "intimidation and threats of threats," Iraq had proved that it "would not submit and abandon its principles and rejection of double standards."

Mashat said his country welcomed efforts from "all sincere mediation efforts from countries and individuals" to resolve the Gulf crisis, sparked by the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait.

"It is high time for the Europeans to educate their own policy and not be subservient to the American policy," he said in response to a question on a meeting of the EC foreign ministers on Friday to discuss the Gulf crisis. "We hope that the Europeans would see where their interests are, that their interests are not linked to the American new imperialistic design after the withdrawal of the Soviet Union from the international scene."

We welcome any independent effort on the European part," he added.

Mashat, who flew into Amman accompanied by the Iraqi ambassador to China, Japan and Canada on their way to their embassies, said Iraq remained "open, flexible and receptive to serious, indepth dialogue and negotiations over all problems of the Middle East."

The ambassador reaffirmed the Iraqi position that Baghdad "will not respect any Security Council resolution as long as the dozens of other Security Council resolutions on the Middle East and the Palestinian problem remain shelved."

"We will never accept the double standard of the United States, which heaps threats and intimidation on Iraq if war breaks out with the multinational force and Israel."

"We will deal intensive blows to the enemy forces to confuse their movements... all the fleets, fighter planes and sophisticated weapons will not affect the desire of the peoples of this area for freedom, independence and control of its wealth," he said.

However other diplomats in

(Continued on page 2)

Iraq warns of Arab, Muslim anti-U.S. attacks

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Iraqi ruling party said Sunday that all of Washington's vital interests around the world would be targets for guerrilla attacks if the United States launched a war to drive Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

The Iraqi leadership said Saturday its troops would not leave Kuwait before or after the Jan. 15 U.N. deadline for a withdrawal from the emirate under the threat of an attack by U.S.-dominated multinational forces in the Gulf.

The Iraqi leadership said Sunday its troops would not leave Kuwait before or after the Jan. 15 U.N. deadline for a withdrawal from the emirate under the threat of an attack by U.S.-dominated multinational forces in the Gulf.

"We tell the U.S. administration, which is saying that the confrontation will be limited within the (Gulf) battlefield, that all its vital interests all over the globe will be military targets for Muslim guerrilla attacks,"

"We will never accept the double standard of the United States, which heaps threats and intimidation on Iraq if war breaks out with the multinational force and Israel."

"We will deal intensive blows to the enemy forces to confuse their movements... all the fleets, fighter planes and sophisticated weapons will not affect the desire of the peoples of this area for freedom, independence and control of its wealth," he said.

Middle East News

Germans said to have played key role in Iraq's nuclear effort

BONN (AP) — As world leaders debate the nuclear potential of Iraq's might, the list of German companies alleged to have helped advance Iraq's atomic technology grows.

At least 100 German firms are suspected of helping Iraq develop its unconventional weapons capability, sources say. German officials won't say how many of those are being investigated for suspected nuclear technology exports.

The news magazine *Der Spiegel*, in the latest of a series of allegations, said this week that "several dozen" European companies were implicated and listed six German firms with some reported connection to Iraq's weapons programme.

"I would not like to be George Bush and go to bed tonight" with the uncertainty over whether Iraq has a nuclear bomb, said Kenneth Timmerman, editor of the Paris-based Middle East Defence News.

It quoted a source who attended a secret briefing on the report as saying Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann "told us that centrifuge equipment sent to Iraq was of German origin."

Additionally, officials have confirmed that customs officers last summer intercepted a German shipment of centrifuge parts at Frankfurt airport bound for Iraq.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reviewed Iraq's declared Nuclear facilities and stores in November, under terms of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, of which Iraq is one of the 141 signatories, and it found nothing unexpected.

Stemmler, one of the two for-

mer employees who both have denied wrongdoing, says he was unfairly fired in 1989. But he is reportedly suspected by the government of playing "an important role" in Iraq's centrifuge technology, according to this week's issue of *Nuclearfuel*.

He said Thursday he had not been contacted by German authorities. The government refuses to comment on cases under investigation.

So far, only one arrest has been reported in the nuclear arms scandal, but the director of a Bonn-based weapons supplier was not charged and remains under investigation for alleged export violations, officials say.

Firms in other countries, including the United States, Britain, Switzerland and Brazil, have been named in connection with suspected Iraqi nuclear development.

But as allegations mount against German firms, so does frustration in Washington.

"We know what the Germans are up to," said a U.S. Senate source, who spoke on condition he not be further identified. "There is only an argument over how long it takes before [Iraq] gets the bomb."

German officials deny they are being lax. But one source in Bonn's inner circle added: "Have you seen the harbour in Hamburg, you just can't control every container."

Germany's federalist justice system also makes it difficult to halt violations, despite tough new export laws.

Drafted by the Economics Ministry, laws are enforced through the finance ministry's customs police, who after investigating reports of possible wrongdoing can turn the case

over to local authorities for further investigation and potential charges.

Lutz Stavenhagen, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's top intelligence adviser, has suggested allowing the country's counterespionage unit to investigate suspected export violations. But the proposal is likely to meet with strong resistance in a country that remembers Hitler's police state.

The latest allegations of German nuclear help to Iraq follows last week's announcement that the United States gave Germany a list of 50 companies suspected of breaking the international embargo against Iraq.

A government official said Friday that of 87 companies under review, based on information from the United States and Britain, 16 had been cleared and 10 were being further investigated for allegedly preparing to break the embargo. The other cases are pending.

Spiegel and the specialised McGraw-Hill publication, Nuclear, both alleged this week that German firms, and individual engineers, are suspected of supplying Iraq with sophisticated technology and know-how to help in building centrifuges to make weapons-grade uranium.

The companies and individuals named in the reports deny any wrongdoing.

It is not clear how far along Iraq may be towards making a nuclear bomb.

The British newspaper, The Sunday Times, reported earlier this month Iraq might be only a year away from the goal.

But a major source for its report, German engineer Bruno Stemmler, denied the paper's timeframe in an interview Thursday night.

Stemmler, one of the two for-

Italian astrologers predict no Gulf war

MILAN (AP) — Economic crises will supplant the Gulf as the biggest global concern of 1991, Italian clairvoyants said this week as they made their traditional predictions for the new year.

Most of the clairvoyants predicted that not a single shot will be fired over the Gulf crisis.

However, Bernardo Gandolfo, a Neapolitan clairvoyant, said the two protagonists of the Gulf crisis, George Bush and Saddam Hussein, may be faced with assassination attempts.

Lucia Alberti, a Vienna-born Italian astrologer who prints a yearly "calendar of events," claimed that industrial recession and unemployment will be the major evils in most countries during 1991.

"Europe will have to defend itself from an invasion of foreign workers and foreign investments and may have temptations of isolationism," Alberti wrote.

Poland, Sweden and Romania

will be especially affected by economic problems, she said.

Japan will be a happy island in the otherwise gloomy international situation and Alberti said the Asian giant will continue its sensational economic expansion.

Giancarlo Giacomini, of Cagliari, said 1991 will be marked by coup attempts in several countries and that the Soviet Union

will face serious internal turmoil and a crisis with neighbouring countries.

Most clairvoyants predicted that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will stay in charge, resisting opposition pressure.

Natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods here predicted in Japan, the United States and Italy.

Genaro Brianti warned that Mount Vesuvius, a long-dormant volcano near Naples, would suddenly wake up.

"Neapolitans should keep their pants and shoes near their beds," Brianti said.

Italian TV squelches interview with Saddam

ROME (AP) — Italy's state-owned television decided Friday not to broadcast an interview it did with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, saying it might "disturb the efforts" for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

The unusual decision raised a storm of protests from reporters. The journalist who conducted the interview, Bruno Vespa, threatened to resign.

The director-general of RAI television, Gianni Pasquarelli, announced the decision in a letter to Vespa, the highly regarded director for the nightly TG-1 news broadcast.

"Italy is president of the European Community and we must avoid, in a moment of extreme delicacy, any act that could contribute to disturb the efforts that are being made to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis," said the letter, read on the evening broadcast.

Pasquarelli did not say how the interview might have disturbed peace-making attempts.

Vespa told viewers of Friday night's TG-1 programme that he disagreed with the decision to postpone the broadcast indefinitely.

The Iraqi leader has given

numerous interviews to Western television stations since his country invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

A RAI spokesman said he did not know if the Italian government had asked the network to hold off broadcasting the interview. The Italian government funds RAI and political parties have broad influence in its operations.

On Friday night's programme, Vespa told viewers: "I expressed my surprise and my complete disapproval with the initiative."

An announcer added that Vespa had asked Pasquarelli for a meeting next week to "evaluate if the situation is compatible with his [Vespa's] remaining at the head of the biggest Italian journalistic outlet."

Vespa said that during the one-hour, 10-minute interview conducted several days ago, Saddam had harshly criticised the United States and seemed to rule out negotiations.

He added that Saddam had "implicitly admitted" he would use chemical weapons in a war.

The editorial committee of the RAI said it supported Vespa in the dispute.

'Children as peacemakers press for voice to be heard'

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It has been universally accepted that children have always been the least heard and the most victimised in any situation of conflict. With this as a foundation, a peace mission, "Children as Peacemakers," visited Iraq where the multinational group of seven sought to talk peace, stressing on the importance of children in the future of the world.

"We went there to talk to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, to relay our views as children that we want a peaceful world and we want him to be the initiator of peace," said 14-year-old Amy Latona from Australia. Adding that the group also wanted to find any way in which the children of the world could help the Iraqi president become a major peacemaker.

The group went to Iraq not for political motives but rather to assure that their peers in other parts of the world live in peace, according to Lina Maraka, 15, from Jordan.

The group held long talks with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan about the state of the children in Iraq, each giving a message of what they felt. "Peace should be the future of the young because if they don't have a future what else is left?" Maraka told Ramadan.

Latona said in her message:

"The Iraqi children are beautiful. They are just like us. It saddens me to think of them dying because they are like my brother or sister." She also told Ramadan that they support Iraq in their plea for peace.

Since the organisation was founded by Patricia Montandon in 1982, delegations have travelled to 25 countries throughout the world talking to world leaders about peace. Now the organisation has children in 80 countries participating in programmes where they can express their ideas and feelings on peace.

In Iraq, the children also visited some primary schools.

"We went to each class and asked them how they felt," Maraka told the Jordan Times. "The younger classes chanted 'long live Saddam,' while the older classes drew pictures of what they saw," she added. Maraka said that there was no hatred in them towards the West but many were worried over the children and the situation in general.

Asked about what they felt being in Iraq, Maraka said that it is a beautiful country.

"At first we did not notice anything different. But on the way to a few places, we saw trucks and people lining up to get food," she said. Latona added that "everyone was courageous about the sanctions imposed on them but worried that already 1,416 children had died from lack of

medicine and food."

Going to Iraq seems to have created a feeling of determination among the children. "When I go back to Australia, I want to tell all the people about the truth of the situation here," Latona affirmed.

Maraka, back in Jordan, wants to start new peace clubs to attract more peacemakers.

"I also want to tell the people of our message to Ramadan," she said.

On another level, Children as Peacemakers will send a delegation to talk to U.S. President George Bush. Although letters have been sent, the organisation has had no reply. "If he is sincere in working for peace, Bush will let a delegation see him," Latona said.

At the same time, Lina Tantash, 15, from Kuwait, expressed her disappointment at adults and said she wants to communicate a message to the world. "I want them to think of the children before they think of their benefits and disadvantages. To take into consideration that we all want peace. When we look up to people and our surroundings, we learn and that is how we grow up and gain our attitudes and beliefs, which we will be following for the rest of our lives. So if we grow up in an atmosphere where there is a lot of hatred and cruelty and there is no peace, we are going to grow up worse than the people we are living with now."

Rushdie added: "That seems to me to be a perfectly moral fable..."

Egyptian Secretary of State

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

Teletext

15:00 Koran

15:45 Programmes review

17:15 Children programmes

18:00 News summary

18:10 Local programme

18:30 Programme review

18:45 News in Arabic

20:30 Arabic series

21:30 Programme review

21:45 Local programme

22:00 News summary in Arabic

22:30 Documentary

23:00 News in English

22:28 Midnite Caller

23:00 PRAYER TIMES

Fajr (Sunrise) Dhuhr

11:30 'Asr

14:45 Magrib

Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swiechieh Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440

De la Saie Church Tel. 661757

Terrassine Church Tel. 622360

Church of the Assumption Tel. 623264

Antonius Church Tel. 625383

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 658177, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Clouds increase gradually and rains are expected in various parts of the country. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with southerly moderate wind and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Farouq Hussain

Dr. Salih Al Khaled

Dr. George Sabagh

Dr. Moustafa Mansour

First physician

Perfumery pharmacy

Al Asmaa' pharmacy

Nairoukh pharmacy

Al Sahar pharmacy

Yacoub pharmacy

Shmeisani pharmacy

DRBD:

Dr. Ziad Al Bakri

Min./max. temp.....

Amman

Aqaba

Desert</p

NEW YEAR'S ECONOMIC PULSE

By Dr. Fahed Faneck

An outlook for 1991

TONIGHT is a turning point, separating not only two years, but also two decades. The following days or weeks will answer the frequently asked question: War or peace? At this critical point, it is extremely difficult to predict the future as the situation is still wide open to all possibilities.

In forecasting the political, economic and social situation in Jordan, during the coming year, one has to start with the assumptions. The future is not strictly determined in advance, it is a range of probabilities and scenarios. The key probabilities in our case are: Peace, war and status quo.

It goes without saying that war will bring with it the worst scenario for Jordan, and that the peaceful solution will result in the best scenario, while it is normal to make forecasts based on the continuation of the status quo.

If war were to break out any time during the next couple of weeks or months, the immediate results for Jordan would be devastating: A possible Israeli aggression, a mass transfer of Palestinians from the West Bank, an influx of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait, and the disruption of oil supply.

If peace prevails, based on a middle of the road solution, Jordan will be a winner, and so will emerge all parties to the dispute. The new Arab order will be much better to Jordan in that it will include the principle of pan-Arab national security, fair distribution of wealth and responsibilities, and a form of Arab confederation.

All-out-war and out-right-peace are unlikely to happen. At least it does not make sense to make our projections based on either. It is of course wiser for the country to assume the worst. In order to safeguard peace we have to be ready for war. However,

shall make my projections assuming the continued tension, and preparedness but not the full scale war.

Taking the last five months as a guide for the future, it is reasonable to expect a negative growth in the gross domestic product by 10 per cent, a stability in the volume of imports because lower standard of living will be offset by 10 per cent increase in population, a decline in exports by 15 per cent. Arab aid will be around zero, and foreign aid to the order of \$250 million, foreign exchange reserves of the Central Bank of Jordan may decline slowly but will remain within safe limits. The exchange rate will hold all through 1991, the deficit in the budget will be around the plan, the inflation rate will be to the order of 10 per cent, and so will be the decline in the standard of living, expatriate remittances will range around \$500 million, and unemployment rate may rise to reach 25 per cent. The major losing sectors will be tourism and transport, the minor losers will be industry and agriculture. The results will be mixed for the financial and real estate sectors as well as for various services.

It is true that the Gulf crisis caused huge losses to the Jordanian economy, but it did not deal a death blow. The Iraqi oil is saving Jordan some \$400 million a year, and the suspension of debt service is easing pressure on the countries reduced foreign exchange earnings.

In all, the Jordanian economy will survive, and the changing circumstances may give rise to many opportunities for those who can see the positive side of any bad situation and try to make the best of it.

Happy and peaceful new year.

Ministers reply to queries on power, supply and education

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament held a session Sunday during which the government replied to a number of questions put forward by some deputies.

During Sunday's session, which was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the Cabinet ministers, the parliament's secretary general read out the government's replies on queries related to ministries of energy and mineral resources, supply, education.

In reply to a query by Deputy Abdulla Al Nsour on electrification of two villages in South Shouneh, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Tanay said his ministry had sent a letter to the Prime Ministry about electrification of villages and residential areas throughout Jordan, in accordance with priorities and availability of funds.

Answering a query by Deputy Fuad Khalaf on imports of frozen chicken, Supply Minister Ibrahim Ayyoub said the local production of chicken was not enough to local needs, particularly in winter. Therefore the ministry imports frozen chicken to cover the shortage in the local markets, he said.

Education Minister Muhammad Hamdan said in reply to a question about the cost-effectiveness of the ministry's housing fund that it aims at granting subscribers loans for

housing purposes. He said a total of 740 beneficiaries had benefited from the fund until the end of this year and the total loans granted amounted to JD 8.4 million.

The fund grants loans for buying houses or building houses and the loans are payable on monthly installments over a period of up to 20 years.

The House discussed a request made by 16 deputies to debate the employment policy in force at the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and decided to refer it to the House's Administrative Committee to take it up with the CSC president. The committee will prepare a detailed report on the subject following its discussion with the CSC president. The House also referred to the Legal Committee a revised draft law on the restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem and a draft law on the Housing and Urban Development Corporation for the year 1990.

It further endorsed the Financial Committee's decision approving the importation and exportation law for the year 1990.

The law, which has undergone slight amendments, organised the steps followed in issuing exportation and importation licences and provides for collecting fines and duties on such licences.

Chamber of Commerce to implement five-year plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC) is going ahead with plans laid in its five-year general development programme for 1989-1994 to develop its various departments and agencies with a view to promoting Jordan's national economy and stimulating trade with other nations, federation Chairman Mohammad Asfour said Sunday.

The federation is developing its research department by enabling its staff to conduct field surveys about trade and economic activities, has introduced a system by which encouragement is given to exporters of Jordanian products and is now increasing its cooperation with organisations concerned with exports in the private and public sectors, Asfour said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The federation, which came into being in 1955, seeks to achieve economic integration in the Arab World by encouraging inter-Arab trade and facilitating export/import operations, Asfour said.

At present the federation has 13 branches around the country, grouping 70,000 members, and they are all active in gathering information related to trade and economy, coordinating work with the Amman headquarters and helping solve problems related to economic and trade arbitration, and issues related to other federations and chambers of commerce in Arab and fore-

ign countries, Asfour added.

The FJCC, Asfour said, maintains membership at the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC), the Social Security Corporation, the Institute of Public Administration, the Higher Supply Council, a government-appointed committee for encouraging investments and various economic councils.

In addition, he said, the federation is an active member of the Arab Chamber of Agriculture, Industry and Trade and the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) and takes part in all activities conducted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the chambers of commerce linking the Arab World with chambers in Asia, America and Europe and the International Chamber of Commerce.

He said that the federation had reached agreements for promoting trade and economic cooperation with various countries and for the exchange of data and information related to training of personnel, organising trade fairs and a settling trade disputes through arbitration.

He said that the federation has now set up the Amman International Trading Company in cooperation with JCCC, the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation, the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Housing Bank and the Arab Investment Bank to promote Jordan's trading potentials and to orient Jordanian companies on foreign markets to increase their exports.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

CDD head meets Balqa governor

SALT (Petra) — Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director Major General Afif Al Ghoul Sunday met Balqa Governor Falah Al Gharaibeh and members of the governorate's Civil Defence Council. Ghoul discussed with them the governorate's civil defence plans. Gharaibeh underlined the CDD's role and voluntary works it is accomplishing. He said the governorate's Civil Defence Council would carry out practical exercises in civil defence works.

Tafileh farmers aided

TAFILEH (Petra) — The Tafileh Governorate's committee entrusted with extending assistance to farmers growing cereals and cattle owners affected by the drought started Sunday distributing in-kind assistance to farmers. Tafileh Acting Governor Abdul Karim Al Mahameed, who chairs the committee, said the committee would be distributing flour, oil and vegetables to farmers provided that they do not receive any assistance from the National Aid Fund (NAF) or Al Zakat (aims for the poor) committee.

AMC issues import export plan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Marketing Corporation (AMC) issued its quarterly vegetables and fruits export/import plan for the months of January, February and March. The plan permits the exporting of all fresh fruits and vegetables while allowing importing only garlic and onions during the month of January. The plan also allows the Jordan Agricultural Manufacturing and Processing Company to import apples as long as it controls selling it on the Jordanian markets.

Banks aids municipality

NORTH SHUNEH (Petra) — Cities and Villages Development Bank has a JD 35,000 loan to Al Mashare' Municipality to help it carry out a commercial market construction project. The municipality is currently constructing a park in the town at the cost of JD 33,000. The establishment of the park comes in implementation of the municipality's policy aimed at encouraging internal tourism.

Evacuation exercise

NORTH SHUNEH (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) in North Shuneh carried out an evacuation exercise which included extinguishing a fire at Mu'az Bin Jabal Hospital. The director of the CDD in Shuneh said the exercise included training workers and employees at the hospital on ways to evacuate it and to transfer the cases in it to an evacuation centre. He said this was part of the department's plan aiming at training citizens on civil defence works. He said 5,620 people were trained so far by the department in the district.

JPA slams peace ship interception

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) Sunday issued a statement denouncing the interception and seizure of the peace ship Ibn Khaldoun while on its way to Iraq carrying essential food supplies and medicines for Iraqi children as an act of piracy, and urged world organisations to step up their efforts to achieve peace in the Gulf.

"While peace loving people of the world are striving to attain peace in the Gulf, the United States continues to beat the drums of war and uses its military, economic and political influence to impose war on Iraq which is now trying to starve," said the statement issued by the JPA board.

The United States is endangering the lives of thousands of innocent people under the false pretext of implementing the international legitimacy, which has now become known to be the American legitimacy, in order to stifle people's freedoms and to deprive developing nations of the right to attain development," said the statement.

It said that American-led naval forces in the Gulf were stepping up their acts of piracy by seizing the peace ship which is carrying women and children and are now holding them hostage only because they had wanted to express their solidarity with the Iraqi people and to show their protest against war and aggression.

The statement appealed to various governments and organisations to condemn the United States actions and to prevent a devastating war in the Gulf. It said that the United States and its allies shoulder the responsibility for any danger that might come to the Gulf and the Arab Nation.

The 11,333-tonne Ibn Khaldoun was stopped Wednesday by Western warships in the north Arabian Sea outside the Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf, and the boarding parties found that the ship carried 240 women and children plus basic humanitarian supplies destined for Iraqi children.

The women on board tried to resist the boarding teams and there were some injuries. A Swedish woman on board has been airlifted to a Gulf hospital.

Meanwhile Oman's Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Ben Sultan has denied media reports that the peace ship Ibn Khaldoun had been seized near the island of Masirah.

He said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the ship was intercepted outside Oman's territorial waters and Oman was not at all responsible for this action.

He added that intensive efforts were being exerted to secure the ship's release.

The ambassador categorically denied that the United States had established military bases on Omani soil and stressed that no American forces were present in Oman.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition entitled "L'orient des cafés" at the French Cultural Centre.

* Art exhibition by Hassan Jalal at the Royal Cultural Centre.

PLO calls for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution 681

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Sunday called for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution 681 which called for providing protection to the Palestinian people under Israeli rule.

Bassam Abu Sharif, advisor to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, told a press conference here that the Security Council should deal with the Palestine question simultaneously with the Gulf crisis, and implement its resolution which calls for giving protection to the Palestinians in the face of Israel's repressive measures.

"Escalation of repressive and terrorist actions against the Palestinians on the part of the Israeli forces and the killing of five Palestinians Saturday in Gaza Strip underline Israel's premeditated plans to wage a war of terrorism on the Palestinians in a bid to evict them from their homeland," Abu Sharif told the press.

Saturday's brutal actions against the Palestinians, he said, manifests Israel's total disregard to Security Council resolutions and its mockery of the world community's principles and views.

These killings, he said, come only a few days after the U.N. Security Council had asked the U.N. secretary general to use the mandate given to him in order to protect Palestinians."

He said the Palestine Liberation Organisation called on U.N. Secretary General Javier Peres de Cuello and the 15-member Security Council to "respect their own decisions and to act immediately to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories."

Abu Sharif said the Palestinian leadership had taken "clear decisions to step up resistance to Israeli occupation."

He said that included unarmed Palestinian attacks against Israeli occupation forces and the killing of five Palestinians Saturday in Gaza Strip, undermining Israel's premeditated plans to wage a war of terrorism on the Palestinians in a bid to evict them from their homeland," Abu Sharif told the press.

The stepping up of oppressive violence by Israeli forces will be met by more resistance by Palestinians. We will not allow at all the Israeli forces to terrorise our people and kill civilians without resistance," he said.

Abu Sharif called on world public opinion to understand



Bassam Abu Sharif

that by doing so, the Palestinian people are only using the rights endowed to them by the United Nations Charter and the Geneva Convention accords.

The 1919 Geneva Convention calls for protection and respect of the rights of citizens under occupation.

The PLO official also called on all Arab people, mainly workers across the Arab World, to boycott all countries that provide Israel with political, financial

or military support.

"The PLO calls on the U.N. secretary general to use his full authorities in implementing resolution 681 in order to protect the Palestinians from further criminal actions," Abu Sharif said.

The resolution, he added, authorised the secretary general to dispatch a team of U.N. officials and observers to monitor the situation inside the occupied territories and the PLO expects the United Nations to carry out its mission and, if need be, to send a multinational force to the occupied lands to ensure protection for the Palestinians.

Asked to comment on the Gulf crisis, Abu Sharif said that the PLO would pursue its efforts at all levels to find a political settlement to the crisis and prevent a war.

"Should the United States wage war on Iraq, it would open the door for hostilities for the first time between the American and Arab people everywhere with unpredictable consequences," said Abu Sharif.

He expressed confidence that an Arab solution based on United Nations legitimacy can lead to stability and security in the Gulf.

Foreign embassies, nationals are not going as far as Americans before Jan. 15

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — While the American government has advised its non-essential employees and citizens to leave Jordan well before January 15, in what was described as a "precautionary" measure in the event that anti-American sentiments increase should war erupt in the Gulf, no other embassy has made an similar an "order" as the American government.

It is true that several Western embassies have contacted their nationals, treated warden systems, which distributed a circular written by the ministry of foreign affairs and trade in Canberra dated December 28, advised non-essential staff to consider leaving the region "temporarily" because of the "uncertain situation in the region." The circular also suggested that air service from the region to Australia may be reduced or cancelled altogether in a war seems imminent.

The nearest any country came to the American reaction was Australia, whose embassy, which distributed a circular written by the ministry of foreign affairs and trade in Canberra dated December 28, advised non-essential staff to consider leaving the region "temporarily" because of the "uncertain situation in the region." The circular also suggested that air service from the region to Australia may be reduced or cancelled altogether in a war seems imminent.

"We are having updating our list of nationals, their addresses and phone numbers," said an official at the Spanish Embassy.

The German Embassy has organised an "information meeting" for January 7 to brief German citizens and their dependents on the situation. So far nothing has been planned in terms of evacuation or notices to leave the country, but in response to a demand by our citizens we will give them a briefing on the 7th" said the embassy's counsellor, Matthias Meyer.

Despite some "unofficial" reports that the Soviet Embassy had planes ready to evacuate its citizens, the embassy spokesman here in Amman said that the

er, should hostilities break out in the region no-one could predict (what) the reaction (might be)," Chesson said.

While the British Embassy issued a circular encompassing the "four points" in mid-October, it has not issued any new suggestions since, according to an embassy spokesman.

The German, French, Italian, Spanish, Swedish and Japanese embassies said that they had not published or circulated any particular notice advising their nationals to leave Jordan.

"We have been updating our list of nationals, their addresses and phone numbers," said an official at the Spanish Embassy.

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Ministry to issue new coupons for subsidised food items

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian children are heavily exposed to and strongly influenced by television, said a Yarmouk University professor.

Dr. Ziyad Rifai, in a working paper entitled "Children, Television and Injuries in the Home" voiced concern over the amount of violence children are exposed to in programmes not suitable for them.

The new coupons, it said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, are not very much different from the previous coupons which were valid for the last part of 1990.

The new coupons, which will be valid for the first four months of 1991, the statement said, look like the previous coupons but they have the seal of

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Small link in big chain

SOVIET JEWISH emigration to Israel has reached new and ominous heights this year, with about 35,000 emigrants expected to arrive in December alone. The total number of emigres from the Soviet Union is projected to top the 180,000 figure during this year, thus making 1990 a record year for Jewish immigration into Palestine. This bumper year for Jewish resettlement in Israel comes at a critical juncture in the search for an equitable solution to the Palestinian question. It also comes amid escalation of Israeli oppression against the Palestinian people under occupation. No doubt the swelling of the Jewish population in Israel will beef up the demographic strength of the Zionist state and make the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict that much more removed from realisation. This added strength to Israel has prompted Tel Aviv to describe the Soviet complicity in the upsurge in Soviet Jewish transfer to Israel as an invaluable instrument that will make Israel a "great nation" at a time when the U.S. is still bolstering its prowess militarily and economically.

No wonder then that the sense of desperation among the Palestinians under occupation is increasing by leaps and bounds. The Palestinians are among the first to recognise that the pre-1967 borders of Israel will never be enough to cope with the massive new arrivals who will have to struggle against the indigenous people of the West Bank and Gaza Strip over territory and water resources. And when about two million Jewish immigrants end up taking roots in Israel, there is no way that such massive resettlement will not be at the expense of the Arabs in the occupied territories.

With Moscow and Washington sending such negative signals to the Arab World, it is hardly surprising that the Arabs themselves are not taking seriously their own verbal protestations against the policies of the two big powers and Israel itself. This has naturally strengthened the call by Baghdad for establishing a linkage between the conflict over Palestine with that over Kuwait. In this vein, Iraq's legitimate and well justified quest for maintaining such an association between the two situations becomes the request of the Arabs everywhere who are genuinely concerned about the fate of the Palestinian people.

Meanwhile, the least that the Arab countries which are allying themselves with the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq can do is to address this massive Jewish immigration in an effective way. If linking the Kuwaiti conflict with the Palestinian situation is also anathema to their way of thinking, the minimum that they can be expected to do in return is to insist on a linkage between Jewish immigration and the resolution of the Palestinian problem.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A general strike staged by the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories Friday was in protest against continued crimes committed by Jewish settlers and as a tool used by the Arab population in their resistance against Israeli occupation, said Al Ra'i daily Saturday. The paper said that the strike served as a notification to the world community and Arab Nation that the recent U.N. Security Council resolution dealing with the situation in the occupied Arab territories did not provide protection to the Palestinians whose conditions are deteriorating and whose human rights are constantly violated. The general strike is a call on all peace loving people of the world to rally for the support of the oppressed Palestinians, and for calling on the Security Council to take very drastic actions to deter Israel from committing further atrocities and crimes against the Palestinian people and not to suffice itself by issuing mere resolutions which are not implemented, the paper noted. We need practical action by the Security Council which had repeatedly announced its determination to see international legitimacy implemented to safeguard world peace and security, the paper demanded. The paper said that the Security Council should be urged to take action against Israel, and the Arabs should not be deterred by the fear that Washington could veto the resolution because, the paper said, Washington's hostile action in this matter is needed so that those Arab states now aligning themselves behind the United States in the Gulf crisis would take a different stand, and join the general Arab effort to stem Israel's criminal actions.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Saturday blames the killing of a 20-year-old man in Zarqa on the availability of fire arms with the public, and says regardless of the motives for the murder, the availability of the weapons with or without licence can lure people to use them. Fakhri Kawar says that the 20-year-old man, Bashir, who was murdered along with his mother by his own father fell as a victim of the availability of fire arms with the head of the family. I do not know yet the motives behind the killing which took place in Zarqa on Thursday, but I do realise, as does everybody else that had not the weapon been there, the murder could not have been committed, the writer notes. Many of the crimes committed in our society, the writer adds, take place as a result of feuds, and probably in a fit of anger and rash actions, with the result that many innocent lives are lost.

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — The U.S.-led 28-nation force in the Gulf, the biggest such force assembled since the Korean war, is expected to have a strength of more than 550,000 personnel by the end of January.

Iraq has an estimated 540,000 troops in Kuwait and southern Iraq and has mobilised tens of thousands more men.

Here is a breakdown of the forces confronting each other in the Gulf:

The United States: There are around 300,000 military personnel now in the region in Operation Desert Shield. In the next few weeks, that will reach 430,000. At the peak of the Vietnam War in 1968, some 545,000 Americans were involved.

Ground forces deployed in the first wave include the 82nd "All American" Airborne Division, the 101st "Screaming Eagles" Airborne Division, the 24th Mechanised Infantry Division, the 11th Air Defence Artillery Brigade, 197th Mechanised Infantry Brigade, the 1st Cavalry Division and the 3rd Armoured Cavalry Regiment.

The second-wave deployment includes three armoured divisions from Germany, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd, that will bolster American offensive capability on the ground for a possible thrust against Kuwait if it is still occupied by Iraq after the Jan. 15 U.N. deadline for withdrawal.

The U.S. force will have around 2,000 tanks when deployment is completed.

Three carrier battle groups built around the USS America, the USS Theodore Roosevelt and the USS Ranger, and the battleship USS Missouri, 300 more combat jets and the 45,000-man 5th Marine Expeditionary Force will also be deployed in the second phase.

Current amphibious capability is provided by 45,000-man of the 1st, 4th and 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigades (MEF) who make up the 1st MEF. When deployment is complete, virtually the whole of the U.S. Marine Corps will be committed to Desert Shield.

There is a special forces contingent from the 1st Special Operations Command.

The U.S. fleet already in the Gulf, the Arabian Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean totals around 55 ships. They include the aircraft carriers Saratoga, John F. Kennedy and Midway, the battleship Wisconsin with 32 Tomahawk cruise missiles, five missile cruisers, four destroyers, several frigates, plus supply ships and an estimated six to eight nuclear submarines.

The aircraft carriers now in place have a combined strike force of 180 A-6 Intruders, F/A-18 Hornets and F-14 Tomcats. The marines have some 60 AV-8B Harrier jump-jets. Those numbers will be doubled when the second-phase formations arrive.

Among the 800 air force combat aircraft deployed so far are 22 F-117A Stealth fighter-bombers and as many as 38 long-range F-111F bombers.

There are an estimated 150 F-16s and F-15s, more than 70 A-10 tank-killing Thunderbolts and unspecified numbers of F-4 Wild Weasel air-defence suppression jets and other combat

aircraft deployed at 30 airbases in the region. Three squadrons are based in southern Turkey.

A squadron of an estimated 26 B-52G strategic bombers is on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia.

Britain: With 18,200 personnel in the region, and 16,000 more to be deployed by mid-January, Britain will have the second largest western contingent in the region after the United States with 35,000 men, at least 50 combat jets and a naval armada.

It is Britain's biggest military deployment abroad since the Korean war.

The three-ship Armitage patrol permanently in the Gulf was beefed up to 16 ships, including three missile destroyers, five missile frigates, three mineweppeers and support ships.

Four squadrons of Tornado and Jaguar interceptors and ground attack jets are in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Three Nimrod maritime reconnaissance aircraft are in Oman. More Jaguars are expected.

The 7th Armoured Brigade, successors to the famous "Desert Rats" of World War II, with 120 Challenger tanks and 9,500 troops is attached to the U.S. marine force in northeastern Saudi Arabia in Britain's biggest military operation since the 1982 Falklands War against Argentina.

It is being joined by the "infantry heavy" Fourth Brigade from Germany, with 13 Challengers, scores of armoured fighting vehicles, artillery, multiple rocket launchers, 36 attack and scout helicopter and major engineering units whose task will be to breach Iraqi defences in Kuwait. The two brigades will form the 30,000-man 1st armoured division.

France: By mid-January it will have 10,000 men in the region, including army formations mak-

ing up the 6th Light Armoured Division. It is the biggest French military deployment overseas since the 1954-62 Algerian war.

It has 12-14 warships with some 1,200 men deployed. The warships include a guided-missile cruiser, two missile destroyers, four frigates and a corvette with support vessels.

France has sent three squadrons of interceptors and fighter-bombers and another squadron has been committed.

Its 4,000-man rapid action force is deployed with Arab forces in the northeastern Saudi desert. It includes the 5th Combat Helicopter Regiment with 42 gunships, the Foreign Legion's 2nd infantry regiment with anti-tank missiles, the 1st Spahis Cavalry Regiment with armoured vehicles and an anti-aircraft missile unit. France may soon send an additional 1,000-man artillery unit with 24 155-mm guns.

A second-wave deployment now under way includes a marine artillery regiment, another combat helicopter regiment with 24 Puma gunships and a Dragoons regiment with 40 AMX-30 battle tanks.

A company of 190 paratroopers equipped for chemical warfare is in the United Arab Emirates. There are 7,300 paratroopers stationed in Djibouti across the Red Sea from Saudi Arabia with a squadron of Mirage fighters.

Italy: The frigates Libeccio, Orsa and Zeffiro and a support ship, the Stromboli, are in the Gulf. The corvettes Minerva and Stinge are in the Eastern Mediterranean replacing U.S. units assigned to the Gulf.

A squadron of eight Tornado fighters is based near Abu Dhabi to provide air cover for Italian warships. Six Starfighter jets are to be deployed. No ground force deployment is planned.

Canada: The destroyers Atha-

baskan and Terra Nova and the supply ship Protecteur are heading for the Gulf. A squadron of 18 CF-18 fighter jets from Germany is in Saudi Arabia.

The Netherlands: The frigates Witte de With and Pieter Florisz are in the Gulf of Oman with the combat supply ship Zuiderkruis.

Spain: The frigates Nuestra Señora de la Merced, Infanta Cristina and Diana are patrolling the Bab Al Mandeb Strait, southern gateway to the Red Sea.

Australia: The guided-missile frigates Adelaide and Darwin and the supply ship Success are in the Red Sea.

Belgium: The minehunters Iris and Myosotis with the supply ship Zinnia are in the Gulf of Oman. The Belgians have also committed four C-130 military transport planes.

Argentina: The destroyer Almirante Brown and the frigate Spiro are in the Red Sea. A 100-man army unit will also be sent.

Bulgaria: It will send a small detachment of military medical personnel.

New Zealand: It is sending two C-130 transport and an army medical team.

The Philippines: It will send a small volunteer detachment of military medical personnel.

Allied Arab forces:

The Gulf Cooperation Council (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, The United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait): A rapid deployment force of up to 10,000 troops is based at Hafr Al Batin northeast Saudi Arabia, 65 kilometres south of the Kuwait border. They and allied Arab-Islamic forces form the first line of defence, with the Americans and others south of them.

The GCC force has been beefed up with some 7,000 soldiers of Kuwait's 20,000-man army who escaped their country when Iraq invaded. Most of their heavy weapons were captured by Iraq, but some combat jets, naval attack craft and tanks were saved.

The GCC and other Gulf Arab forces total around 150,000 men, 330 combat aircraft, 800 tanks and 36 major naval units, although not all are likely to be involved in Desert Shield.

Portugal: The naval support

Egypt: 20,000 troops, including paratroopers, commandos, chemical warfare specialists and infantry, are in Saudi Arabia with some 400 tanks. The force includes the 3rd and 4th armoured divisions and the 3rd mechanised infantry division. Another 7,000 men are being sent. Some 2,250 troops are in the UAE.

Syria: Some 19,000 troops, including elite special forces units who fought the Israelis and others in Lebanon, are in Saudi Arabia. Most of the 15,000-man 9th Armoured Division with some 270 T-62 tanks, have arrived. Another 2,000 troops are in the UAE.

Pakistan: 5,000 troops are in Saudi Arabia and 2,000 in the UAE with 1,000 advisers. Some 5,000 advisers are already attached to the Saudi armed forces. An additional armoured division may be committed.

Morocco: It has 1,200 troops in Saudi Arabia and 500 in the UAE.

Bangladesh: It has 2,000 troops, including engineering and infantry units, in Saudi Arabia.

Senegal: 500 troops are in Saudi Arabia.

Niger: It has sent 480 troops to guard the holy shrines of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

Iraq: The army has seven corps totalling 55-60 divisions. There are 355,000 regular troops and 480,000 reserves all of whom are believed to have been mobilised. Regular forces include six divisions of elite Republican Guards.

Iraq has a militia called the popular army with eight million men, but its true strength is estimated at around 850,000.

Iraq has 5,500 tanks, including some 500 high-quality T-72s and 1,000 medium-quality T-62s; 3,500 artillery guns; 200 multiple rocket launchers; 200 surface-to-surface missiles; more than 330 surface-to-air missile launchers, including captured Kuwaiti systems; some 700 combat aircraft, including Soviet-built long-range SU-21 fighter-bombers and advanced MiG-29 interceptors.

Poland: It will send a military field hospital and a hospital ship to the Gulf.

Czechoslovakia: It has sent a 200-man army unit with anti-chemical warfare equipment, the first Warsaw Pact country to send forces to the Gulf.

Honduras: It is sending 150 troops to Saudi Arabia and possibly 350 more, in the country's first foreign military deployment.

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New Zealand: It is sending two C-130 transports and an army medical team.

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Silk worm anti-ship missiles are believed to have been deployed to counter any U.S. amphibious landing in Kuwait. Frog-7 battlefield missiles have also been deployed, including batteries captured in Kuwait, behind formidable defence lines.

Iran finds its way back into Gulf again

Most of the GCC states sided with Iraq during the 1980-88 war with Iran. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia gave an estimated \$34 billion to Baghdad. Iran attacked their ships in retaliation.

Since the 1988 ceasefire, Rafsanjani has tried to end Iran's isolation and rebuild bridges with his neighbours.

The indications are that Saudi Arabia and Iran could soon restore relations, a necessary step before the two biggest Gulf states can join forces in a new security structure.

That's unlikely to happen until Kuwait has been liberated and Iraq humbled.

There will be other obstacles to overcome.

Iran is likely to demand a pre-eminent position in any alliance that emerges, something the Gulf Arabs are not expected to accept without murmur.

Diplomats said Iran stands to gain the most from an alliance and cautioned that Tehran was not expected to abandon its aim of regional domination.

Iran has opposed the invasion of Kuwait, but it has also condemned the Western military force brought into the Gulf by the Saudis.

The Americans say they want to see a new security structure in



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Topple Bahrain's ruling family. Saudi Arabia was a target for Iranian subversion where it hurt

most, the annual Haj to Mecca. Riyadh severed relations with Tehran in April 1988.

The Americans say they want to see a new security structure in

U.K. yacht stripped of victory in Sydney-to-Hobart race

SYDNEY (R) — British maxi Rothmans, stripped of its line honours victory in the Sydney-to-Hobart Yacht Race Saturday for using an illegal spinnaker, would not have won without the sail, said skipper Lawrence Smith.

The 15 million dollar (\$11 million) yacht, which is owned by the Pall Mall tobacco company, flew a spinnaker with the words "Rothmans Yachting" emblazoned running under 30 miles offshore and broadcast the footage Friday's evening news.

Australian maxi Ragamuffin, which crossed the finish line in second place two hours behind Rothmans, was awarded line honours victory by the race committee.

The 10-year-old Ragamuffin is the first treble line honours winner in the 46-year history of the 630 nautical mile race.

Race director Greg Halls said in a statement that Rothmans had been penalised 10 per cent of places for infringing Interna-

won the race," Smith said.

"We didn't realise that anyone was around. We were in agreement with the race committee when we arrived here (in Australia) that we would not be flying any logo spinnakers. It's bad luck for us that we were spotted," he said.

A television crew in a helicopter filmed the big white yacht running under its illegal spinnaker about 30 miles offshore and broadcast the footage Friday's evening news.

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tional Yacht Racing Union rule 26 which prohibits advertising on spinnakers.

Under international yacht rules, Rothmans was only permitted to carry advertising on about 37 per cent of both sides of her 24-metre hull or on the crew's personal clothing or gear.

Tobacco companies cannot be prevented from giving their names to yachts under international racing rules.

Halls said skipper Smith had signed a declaration stating he had not obeyed the rule.

The penalty not only robes the British boat of line honours, but will mean her final position will be well back in the fleet.

"If 90 yachts complete the race then she will be penalised 10 per cent of the places, so she will be penalised nine places," said a race official.

The decision to strip Rothmans of line honours is the final act in a controversy which has plagued the boat since it arrived

in Australia and came one day after a national print ban on tobacco advertising came into effect.

The anti-smoking lobby has complained throughout the race that television coverage of Rothmans was in breach of the national ban on tobacco advertising on television.

Anti-smoking protesters hoisted a banner, "Rothmans kills," above the waiting crowd at Hobart's Constitution Dock as the British yacht arrived.

Anti-smoking activist Dick Smith Saturday ran a full-page advertisement condemning Rothmans' sponsorship in both the Hobart Mercury newspaper and the Sydney Morning Herald.

The advertisement declared: "Congratulations Rothmans on a brilliant marketing campaign." Smith said in his advertisement that smoking was responsible for over 18,000 deaths in Australia each year.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Mr. USA used steroids

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) — The winner of the 1988 Mr. USA bodybuilding title, who said he used anabolic steroids to keep up with the competition, has pleaded guilty to charges he accepted a shipment of the illegal drugs. John Defendis, 32, of Lake Worth, Florida, told U.S. District Judge James C. Paine the 149 ampoules of muscle-building steroids were for his personal use and were a gift from a French bodybuilder. "I used steroids because I'm a professional athlete and because you're almost required to do so," Defendis said after Wednesday's hearing. "I wasn't using steroids to get an edge on the competition. I was using them to keep up with the competition." When he first began using steroids, he said he did it under a doctor's care. "When it became illegal, my career was in full swing," he said, noting the ampoules he received are not illegal in France. Defendis faces five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. He is scheduled for sentencing on Feb. 27.

Kasparov named Athlete of the Year

MOSCOW (AP) — World chess champion Garry Kasparov, who defended his title in an exhausting two-month series with grandmaster Anatoly Karpov, was named the Soviet Union's top athlete of 1990, TASS reported. The Soviet News Agency said Svetlana Shusharina, a two-time world champion, was ranked second in the annual poll of Soviet sports writers. Tennis player Andrei Cherkasov and soccer player Sergei Yurav were next, followed by weightlifter Anatoly Kharapetyan, TASS said Friday.

Senna voted Sportsman of 1990

PARIS (R) — Brazilian motor racing driver Ayrton Senna was voted Sportsman of the Year in a poll published by the French sports daily L'Equipe Saturday. Senna, who pipped Frenchman Alain Prost for the 1990 Formula One title, collected 191 points in the poll — more than West German World Cup soccer player Lothar Matthaeus.

WBL squad reaches finals

HAARLEM, Netherlands (AP) — An all-star squad from the World Basketball League beat French league leader Olympique D'Amiens 100-95 Friday to advance to the finals of the Haarlem Basketball Week. Fred Cofield, a guard from the Youngstown Ohio Pride, and Perry McDonald, an equally tall guard from the Illinois Express, scored 28 points each. The defending tournament champions will face Nashua Lasers of Den Bosch, Netherlands, in Saturday's semifinal.

Paisan beats Burgess to get IBC title

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Idlemar Paisan of Caracas, Venezuela, rallied to stop Vinnie Burgess of Philadelphia in the final round to capture the International Boxing Council (IBC) 140-pound (63.6-kilogramme) title Friday night. Paisan, who won for the first time since 1986, trailed on two score cards and was even on another when he nailed Burgess with three straight hooks in the final minute. Paisan sent Burgess to the canvas with two more right hands. Burgess got up at the count of nine, but referee Steve Smoger refused to let him continue. The fight was halted at 2:18 of the final round. Paisan, who was idle from 1987 of 1989, improved to 29-2 with 15 knockouts. Burgess is 21-3 with 10 knockouts.

Nice's soccer coach resigns

NICE, France (R) — Jean Fernandez, coach of French first division soccer team Nice, has resigned because of his unpopularity with local fans. "Since the first match of the season, fans have been asking for me to resign," said Fernandez, who joined Nice from neighbouring Cannes at the start of the season. After a poor start, Nice have been unbeaten in their last six outings and lie 14th in the league, six from the bottom. Club sources said Fernandez may be replaced briefly by former French international Jean-Noel Huck, Nice's current general manager, before a new coach is appointed next month.

In the Commonwealth Games, the biggest news was the retirement of Britain's Sebastian Coe, the two-time Olympic 1,500-metre gold medalist and two-time Olympic 800-metre silver medalist.

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Other outdoor events in which records were broken included the men's 400-metre relay (the French national team with a 37.79-second clocking), the men's 300 (Danny Everett of the U.S. and Roberto Hernandez of Cuba each clocking 31.48), the women's 1,000 metres (Christine Wachtel of Germany, 2:30.67), the women's triple jump (Li Huirong of China, 17-8), the women's 3-kilometre and 5-kilometre walk (both by Kerry Saxby, Australia, with 12:06.12 and 20:17.19), and the women's 10-kilometre walk (Nadezhda Kyaschina, Soviet Union).

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Pakistan plans wide-ranging financial, commercial reform

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan intends to abolish exchange controls and slash tariffs on imports as part of a radical economic reform programme, Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz has said.

Within three to four months there will be a major liberalisation of exchange controls provided the nation's foreign exchange reserves are at an adequate level, he told Reuters in an interview.

"We are going to reduce gradually and ultimately abolish exchange controls," said Aziz, who described the plan as a "calculated risk."

The uncertainty created by the Gulf crisis could eventually benefit Pakistan as Middle East capital looked for a more secure home, the minister said.

"Don't forget that after (problems in) Lebanon, there were people looking for somewhere to put their money," Aziz added.

Currently Pakistan has tough restrictions on transfer of funds in and out of the country.

Foreign investors must get permission from the government to repatriate profits while Pakistanis living here are not allowed to set up bank accounts abroad and face limits on the amount of foreign exchange they can take out of the country.

Aziz said Pakistan's highly protective tariff system would be dismantled over the next two years with the average tariff rate cut to 30 per cent from 75 per cent currently.

The plans are part of an ambitious drive to reform the economy. The new conservative

government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, which was elected at the end of October, has announced a major privatisation programme and a package of tax and duty incentives to promote industry.

Aziz said if Pakistan could make its economy more outward looking than annual economic growth rates of nine to 10 per cent would be beyond it.

However, the Gulf crisis has been threatening to send the economy into a tailspin before the reforms have time to work.

"It is really unfortunate that at a time when we are making dramatic changes in our policy framework and moving ahead fast there should be an unfavourable international environment for us," Aziz said.

In June the government of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto set an export target of \$5.5 billion for 1990/91 against \$4.8 billion in 1989/90.

Pakistan's economic aid position has been sticky following a decision by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to suspend payments from a funding package last June because of Islamabad's failure to meet a series of economic targets.

The takeover is the biggest ever by a Japanese company in the United States.

Matsushita said it had arranged financing for payment to shareholders beginning Thursday and that it expected to complete its merger of MCA into a wholly-owned subsidiary within about two weeks.

The completion of the merger followed actions by two federal judges Friday who rejected 11th-hour attempts to block the deal. The cases were viewed as the final hurdles to the merger.

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia denied a request by Go-Video Inc. to stop the takeover. The manufacturer of videocassette recorders had said the deal violates antitrust laws.

In Los Angeles, a federal district judge rejected the motion of a shareholder who complained that MCA Chairman Lew Wasserman was given preferential treatment.

An MCA spokesman said the shareholder lawsuit was considered the more serious threat to the takeover, the largest ever by a Japanese company in the United States.

The plaintiff contended that shareholders were not offered the chance to swap their shares for Matsushita stock, as Wasserman was. The deal allows him to avoid paying about \$109 million in capital gains tax.

Other shareholders will receive \$66 per share in the tender offer. Stockholders also will receive shares in MCA's television station, WWOR-TV in Secaucus, New Jersey, valued by analysts at \$5 a share.

MCA, founded in 1924, owns Universal Pictures, theme parks, record labels and other interests.

Its most famous products include the movies E.T. — The Extra-Terrestrial, Back To The Future and Jaws.

With the completion of the deal, MCA, the nation's fourth-largest entertainment company, becomes the third major Hollywood studio to go to a foreign market mechanism.

Thousands of vendors across the country staged symbolic strikes in September demanding they be given first crack at buying the shops and a chance to pay up to half the price in installments spread over a seven year period.

However, the law approved by parliament in October excluded any provisions that would give preferential treatment to any potential buyer.

Auctions will be held in two rounds, with the first round open only to Czechoslovak citizens and those who left the country after 1948 when the communists came to power.

The privatization process is a key part of reforms aimed at transforming Czechoslovakia's centralized economy into a Western-style one guided by market mechanisms.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, December 30, 1990			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	663.0	667.0	Japanese yen (for 100)
British Sterling	125.0	125.8	Dutch guilder
Denmark	444.4	447.1	Swedish crown
Swiss franc	520.9	524.0	Italian lira (for 100)
French franc	130.2	131.0	Belgian franc (for 10)

used in the production of

kerosene and diesel were com-

pletely burned in the

fire...repairs will take time,"

one source said.

The Saudi Arabian Marketing

and Refining Company (Samarec) Sunday raised its

posted fuel oil prices at several

ports, including Ras Tanura,

and announced a tender to sell

fuel oil and naphtha, an indus-

trial product, from the same ports

in February.

Last Monday, Samarec

announced it was buying 1.4

million barrels of jet fuel and

one million barrels of gas oil

(diesel), used for aircraft and

military vehicles respectively.

He quoted Saudi Arabia's fi-

nance ministry as saying it had

spent \$21 billion on the crisis,

considerably more than its addi-

tional oil revenues of \$16 billion.

A significant portion of the

incremental oil production was

also either being supplied free of

charge to the multinational

forces or at concessionary terms

to Saudi allies, he said.

Saudi Arabia set 1990 spend-

ing at around \$38 billion and

forecast a budget deficit of \$6.6

billion.

Azzam said that although

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait had

hurt non-oil economic activities

of its GCC allies, solid overall

growth during the first seven

months of 1990 and the jump in

oil exports resulted in increased

GDP growth rates.

Saudi Arabia's GDP would

grow by 9.8 per cent in 1990

compared with 3.5 per cent in

1989 while the UAE growth rate

would leap to 25 per cent from

14.3, he said.

Matsushita and MCA complete purchase contract

NEW YORK (R) — Japan's Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd. said Saturday it had completed its \$6.13 billion tender offer to purchase MCA Inc.

The takeover is the biggest ever by a Japanese company in the United States.

Matsushita said the revenue gap had been partially closed by a 25 per cent rise in export earnings in the first five months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1991 from the year-earlier period. It did not disclose the precise figures.

In June the government of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto set an export target of \$5.5 billion for 1990/91 against \$4.8 billion in 1989/90.

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Gorbachev orders new measures to help lame ducks of perestroika

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev announced new measures Saturday to protect poorer citizens and prop up businesses struggling as a result of his perestroika reform programme.

Two presidential decrees, published by the Soviet news agency TASS, ordered a special extra-budgetary fund to be created and a new sales tax to be introduced next year.

The country moves towards a market economy, one decree said setting up an economic stabilisation fund would help to support "enterprises experiencing difficulties through no fault of their own."

The fund, to be held by the central government until an economic agreement is reached with the country's 15 republics, will finance a variety of projects "in the interests of all republics."

It resources will be drawn from money previously allocated for social security contributions, factory maintenance, profits re-

sulting from price increases and revenue from privatisation.

Areas that will benefit include scientific research, conversion of military facilities for civilian production and special subsidies to republican economies, the decree said.

The wording appeared to reflect Kremlin concern that republican leaders might interpret the decisions as an infringement of sovereignty and an attempt to return to the command-and-administrative methods of the past.

The central government is already at loggerheads with the giant Russian Federation over contributions to the 1991 Soviet budget. The dispute threatens to port loss-making enterprises that might result from businesses closing in competitive market conditions.

"We must prepare for the transition to a market...this will provide guarantees for people's welfare," he said.

The decree recommended that republics set up their own extra-budgetary funds. "All union republics have spoken in favour of such funds and introduction of a sales tax," Pavlov said.

The sales tax was set at five per cent and aimed at financing central and republican government projects, supporting poorer citizens and stabilising the economy.

Poésie
ETOUFFEMENT

*Je me demande bien des fois
Ce que je fais dans ce monde-là!
Mon âme qui flotte dans l'au-delà
Veut se libérer de mon corps las...*

*A tout ce qui m'entoure étrangère,
Remplie d'une douceur amère,
Je me laisse vivre et j'espère
Voir mon rêve réalisé sur Terre.*

*Mais où va donc notre monde?
Ce XXe siècle est une honte!
Où sont la Science et le Progrès?
Ils n'ont entraîné que le regret.*

*Etres humains, arrêtez d'enfanter;
Vos enfants ne pourront pas chanter.
Ils vivront sur Terre tourmentés,
Vous accuseront de les avoir apportés
Pour satisfaire votre égoïsme, votre fierté.*

*Regardez donc autour de vous!
Les hommes ne se saluent plus,
Ils tendent des lames qui tuent.
Témoin de tant d'horreurs,
Le ciel a perdu sa couleur...
Du sang répandu sur Terre,
Il reflète une meurtrissante Lumière!*

*Jadis la Terre nourrie d'eau
donnait ses fruits les plus beaux...
Aujourd'hui noyée de sang.
Elle vomit tous ses poisons.
Ses entrailles tremblent de dégoût
Les flammes jaillissent de partout...
Le ciel gronde de colère.
Les volcans éclatent en tonnerre!*

*Des gens meurent inondés
D'autres meurent assaillis
D'autres encore sont brûlés.
Ou bien meurent affamés.
De fileux le monde ne manque pas.
La mort est bien la fin ici-bas.
Etres humains, arrêtez, arrêtez-là!
Seuls les phénomènes de la nature
Peuvent tuer les pauvre créatures.
Vous avez la sagesse et la pensée.
Hélas! vous les avez en armes transformées
Pour vous faire du mal et vous entre-tuer.*

*Notre séjour sur Terre est éphémère.
Essayez de vous en réjouir en paix.
Aimez, vénérez et nourrissez cette Terre—
—Où nous reposerons tous pour l'éternité—
D'amour, d'affection et de prière.*

*Vous qui ne croyez pas en Dieu,
Ne créez pas ici-bas un enfer!
Vous qui croyez en Dieu,
Ne vous réfugiez pas dans vos prières!
Criez, hurlez, faites quelque chose
Ne soyez pas tyran ou victime!
Pour l'amour de Dieu il faut qu'on ose
Arrêter le monde devant cet abîme.
Arrêtez, arrêtez votre course mes frères,
Demain il sera peut-être trop tard!
Vous vous êtes lancés les yeux bandés,
Vous avez perdu vos fins espérées.
Otez ce masque laid que vous portez,
Ouvrez bien les yeux et regardez,
Laissez votre égoïsme de côté,
Pensez à l'avenir, à la beauté.
Il y a autre chose que ces futilités
Derrière lesquelles vous haltez!
Le pouvoir, la puissance, l'argent
Ne sont en fait que des démons
Qui vous conduiront au Néant!*

*Amour, tendresse, affection,
Amitié, pitié, compassion,
Charité, gratitude, dévotion,
Où sont tous ces beaux sentiments?
Où sont-ils simplement des illusions,
Auxquelles on rêve tout secrètement?*

*Mon cœur brisé tombe en morceaux.
Croire aux sentiments, c'est bientôt sorti!
Ce ne sont plus que des mots,
Qu'on n'ose plus prononcer tout haut!*

*Mes piquants de hérisson ont repoussé.
Dans ma coquille recroquevillée,
Derrière ma délicate carcasse,
Je fais ce monde "dégueuleuse"!*

*C'est lâche, je le sais bien,
Mais je me sens si seule enfant!
Vous qui souffrez de mon mal,
Unissez votre voix à la mienne,
Criez, hurlez à toutes personnes:
«Frères humains, rendez-nous notre Humanité!
A la Sagesse, à la Raison, revenez!»*

Sazde Takrouri
Professeur de Français
à l'Université du Yarmouk

Premier musée privé de France

La maison d'Emile Zola à Médan

Nulla dies sine linea» (Pas un jour sans une ligne)... En lettres noires dans un cartouche doré se détache, sur le manteau de la cheminée, la devise à laquelle Emile Zola est demeuré fidèle jusqu'à son dernier jour. Nous sommes dans son cabinet de travail, à Médan. Une pièce vaste comme un atelier de sculpteur ouvrant, par une large baie, sur la vallée.

1878. Zola vient de publier «L'Assommoir». Pour échapper à la célébrité, il cherche un lieu où poursuivre, dans la quiétude, son œuvre monumentale: «Les Rougon-Macquart, histoire naturelle et sociale d'une famille sous le second Empire». Il trouve le havre souhaité à une trentaine de kilomètres à l'ouest de Paris, à Médan, dans un paysage digne des canotiers des bords de Seine, chers à Renoir et à Monet.

«J'ai acheté une maison, une cabane à lapins dans un trou charmant (...) La littérature a payé ce modeste asile champêtre», écrit-il à Flaubert. Alors l'écrivain s'improvise architecte, bâtisseur, décorateur. Il flanque la maison d'une tour carrée dans laquelle il installe sa chambre et son cabinet de travail. A l'intention de ses amis, il fait construire un pavillon de quatre chambres dans le jardin. Contre le potager, il installe une ferme avec une écurie pour le cheval «Bonhomme», une étable pour la vache et son veau, une laiterie, un poulailler, une immense serre pour ses fleurs.

Plus tard, il achète, juste en face sur le fleuve, une île que l'on gagne à bord de la barque «Nana». Il y installe un chalet, le «Paradou», y donne des parties champêtres. Par 24 achats successifs à l'entour, le «modeste

asile champêtre» devient un domaine cossu de 42.000 km².

Zola préside à la décoration de la maison: mosaïque dans la salle de billard, vitraux anciens dans la salle à manger, chapiteaux historiés, rétables, lanternes.... L'œuvre romanesque et la maison grandissent au même rythme, l'argent que rapporte la première servant à développer, embellir la seconde.

Dans la salle à manger prend corps, autour du maître, le projet des «Soirées de Médan», l'œuvre collective par laquelle de jeunes écrivains, dont Maupassant et Huysmans, rendent hommage au chef de file du naturalisme. A Médan, Zola s'prend de la jolie Jeanne Rozerot, la lingère de sa femme, de 27 ans plus jeune que lui.

Commence alors une nouvelle vie illuminée par l'amour. Il apprend la photographie, l'une de ses passions. Aux beaux jours, l'écrivain enfourche son vélo-cipède et s'en va, un appareil en bandoulière, tirer des clichés dans la campagne environnante. En sept ans, il impressionnera 7.000 plaques.

Zola est heureux dans cette maison de Médan, fruit d'une fortune acquise par un labour acharné. Elle symbolise sa réussite dans le monde des Lettres. «Je passe de délicieuses après-midi dans mon jardin, à regarder tout vivre autour de moi. Avec l'âge, je sens tous s'en aller et j'aime tout passionnément», écrit-il à un ami au cours de l'été 1902. Deux mois plus tard — il a 62 ans — l'auteur de «Germinal» quitte Médan pour regagner son appartement de la rue de Bruxelles à Paris. Le 29 septembre au matin, on le retrouve asphyxié par les émanations de la cheminée.

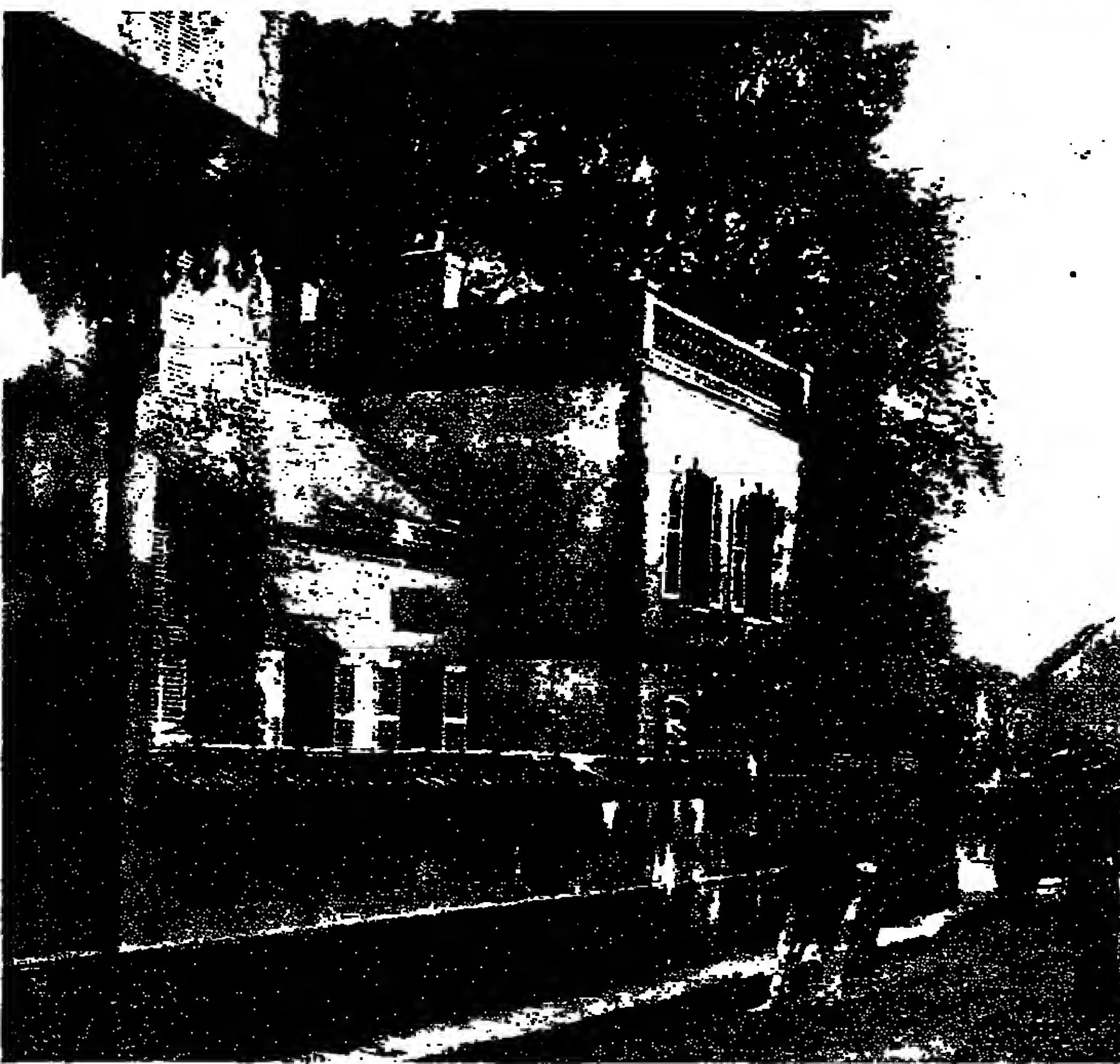
Trois ans après la disparition du romancier, sa femme Alexandrine, fit don de la maison de Médan à l'Assistance publique. On y installa une pouponnière, puis une école d'infirmières. Mais chaque année, le premier dimanche d'octobre, les descendants et fidèles du romancier y organisent un pèlerinage autour de personnalités illustres.

Ainsi naquit, en 1985, une Association du musée Zola. Elle a rassemblé des collections évoquant le souvenir de l'écrivain. Dons de particuliers ou produits de subventions d'organismes publics pour l'essentiel. Une quarantaine de bénévoles entretiennent la maison et guident, chaque dimanche à la belle saison, les milliers de visiteurs — dont de nombreux étrangers. (L'œuvre d'Emile Zola a été traduite en 17 langues.)

Ceux-ci s'attardent surtout dans la chambre de l'écrivain où ont été rassemblés les documents qui évoquent son rôle dans l'affaire Dreyfus. De l'arrestation du capitaine et sa déportation à l'île du Diable, jusqu'à sa réhabilitation, en passant par la célèbre publication du célèbre «accuse», signé Emile Zola, paru dans l'*«Aurore»* du 13 janvier 1898.

En 1989, le *«Sunday Times»* a classé la maison de Zola «premier musée privé de France» pour la qualité de son accueil et l'intérêt de ses collections. Un hommage qui a stimulé le zèle des conservateurs: cet automne, il ont célébré le centenaire de la publication de *«La bête humaine»*, en organisant, à Médan, une exposition de documents consacrés aux machines à vapeur de la fin du XIX^e siècle.

Camille Hérisson



La maison de Médan.

A L'AFFICHE

FILM

Jazz

Phrases longues et courtes

17h30 - *"Dorothée"*. Film. L'histoire d'une jeune fille, à la recherche d'un trésor.

19h00 - *Le Journal*.

19h15 - Carnet de notes. Extraits de musique classique.

LUNDI

18h00 - *L'oiseau des mers*. Dessin animé.

18h10 - *Denver le dernier dinosaure*. Dessin animé.

18h35 - *Avanture Voyage*. Magazine d'aventure.

19h00 - *Le Journal*.

19h15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

MARDI

18h00 - *Denver le dernier dinosaure*, dessin animé.

18h30 - *Saint Vision*. Magazine musical.

19h00 - *Le Journal*.

19h15 - *Aujourd'hui en Jordanie*. Magazine local préparé et présenté par Saleh Madi.

MERCREDI

18h00 - *Thalassa*. Le magazine de la mer.

18h30 - *«Société gâchée»*. Premier épisode d'une série de 50 qui raconte la cohésion, dans le même immeuble, d'une famille de François d'origine algérienne et d'une famille franco-française. Loin du misérabilisme, l'objectif des réalisateurs de cette série est de traiter avec humour de ce thème rarement porté à l'écran sous forme de fiction.

19h00 - *Le Journal*.

19h15 - Carnet de notes. Extraits de musique classique.

JEUDI

18h00 - *"Snoopy"*. Dessin animé.

18h30 - *Spéciale sauvage*. Documentaire sur la vie des animaux.

19h00 - *Le Journal*.

19h15 - Reportage d'actualité.

VENDREDI

18h00 - *"Pour tout l'or du Transvaal"*. Premier épisode d'une série de six qui raconte la lutte qui opposa les soldats britanniques aux fermiers hollandais au début de ce siècle en Afrique australe.

18h30 - *Le Journal*.

19h15 - *Histoire de l'art*. Série documentaire.

SAMEDI

18h00 - *"Destination Santé"*. Magazine médical, consacré cette semaine au cancer.

18h30 - *Le Journal*.

19h15 - Carnet de notes. Extraits de musique classique.

CINEMA

Jazz. Dans le cadre de son cycle consacré au Jazz, le Centre Américain présente cette semaine *"High Society"*, comédie musicale de Cole Porter, avec le grand Louis Armstrong, Grace Kelly et Bing Crosby. (Voir FOCUS). Centre Américain, le Jeudi 3 janvier 1991 à 19h.

DIVERS

Réouverture. A l'occasion des fêtes de Noël et du jour de l'An, le Centre Culturel Français a fermé ses portes depuis le 24 décembre. Il les rouvrira le 2 janvier à 9h. Pour les cours de français, les inscriptions débuteront le 8 janvier prochain.

Sami Kamal

Quelle histoire!

Boris en Terre Promise

Boris était né dans une banlieue sale de Moscou. Il était fils unique d'un couple d'employés du gouvernement. L'appartement familial, situé au cinquième étage d'un grand immeuble sans ascenseur, ne comportait que deux pièces, une toute petite cuisine et une minuscule salle d'eau.

L'une des pièces était la chambre à coucher. Elle contenait deux lits, une armoire double et une commode. Dans l'un des lits, pouvant à peine contenir une personne, dormaient ses parents. Le deuxième, celui de Boris, était tellement étroit qu'il en était souvent tombé en se retournant quand il était tout jeune. En grandissant, il avait appris à dormir sans se retourner, le visage toujours tourné vers le mur. Il put ainsi à la fois éviter les chutes douloureuses et laisser une certaine intimité à ses parents, qui n'en profitait d'ailleurs que de moins en moins.

La deuxième pièce, baptisée pompeusement «salon», comprenait deux fauteuils, une petite table, six chaises, un poêle à charbon et une bibliothèque dans laquelle s'entassaient de nombreux livres, auxquels vinrent s'ajouter un petit poste de radio et, plus tard, un petit poste de télé en noir et blanc.

Boris voyait assez peu ses parents. Dès son plus jeune âge, sa mère le déposait le matin dans une crèche pour ne le reprendre que le soir. Plus tard, l'autocar de l'école le prenait de bon matin, avant même que ses parents n'aient quitté pour leur travail. Lorsque l'autocar le ramenait le soir, il retrouvait ses parents déjà rentrés. Le temps de dîner, de se laver et de regarder un peu la télévision, le moment de se coucher arrivait. Ses jours de congé, il les passait à s'entraîner au karaté dans un club pas très éloigné de sa maison, un sport dans lequel il excellait et qui lui rapporta plusieurs médailles.

A l'école, Boris fit la connaissance d'une fille de son âge du nom de Sarah. Elle aussi était fille unique, mais de parents juifs,

considérés par la communauté comme plus ou moins dissidents. Sarah était jolie, douce et bien moins égoïste que les autres camarades de Boris. Une fois qu'il avait oublié son plumier, il ne trouva que Sarah pour lui prêter un crayon.

Une solide amitié naquit ainsi entre Boris et Sarah. Il trouvait en elle la sœur affectueuse que ses parents ne lui avaient jamais donné et elle trouvait en lui le frère sur lequel elle pouvait compter.

La vie suivait son cours monotone et fastidieux. Soudain, la Perestroïka commença. Boris était alors adolescent et commençait à se poser des questions sur le sens de la vie. Il éprouvait un besoin urgent de changement. Pourquoi ne pas émigrer, aller aux Etats-Unis par exemple ou la vie paraissait si exaltante?

Sarah l'informa que l'émigration pour Israël devenait possible. Tout ce qu'il fallait faire, c'était présenter une demande à une agence juive qui se chargerait par la suite de toutes les formalités. «Mais je ne suis pas juif», objecta Boris. «Aucune importance», répondit Sarah. L'essentiel est que tu veilles vraiment à t'établir en Israël!

Boris ne savait pas grand-chose sur Israël. D'après les bribes d'informations qu'il voyait à la télévision, il s'était formé l'impression que cet Etat avait usurpé la terre et les droits des Palestiniens. «Propagande soviétique!», lui affirmó Sarah, qui lui remit de nombreuses brochures en couleurs dans lesquelles Israël était décrit comme le pays du soleil, de la Liberté et de la Tradition. «Pourquoi pas Israël? finit il par décider. L'important est de sortir d'ici! En Israël au moins je serai libre et je ne crèverai pas de froid en hiver!»

A l'insu de ses parents, Boris présenta donc, début 1987, sa demande d'immigration. A l'automne de la même année, il fut, avec Sarah, admis à l'Université. Tous deux choisirent d'étudier

l'hébreu et les langues orientales. Avec Sarah, il assistait le soir, au «oyer israélite», à des cours d'initiation à la religion hébraïque. Il les trouvait bien plus intéressants que les cours de marxisme-léninisme qu'il avait dû suivre durant les différentes périodes de son enseignement.

Entre

Economy

Prices said to increase in Hungary next month

BUDAPEST (AP) — The price of bakery products, sugar, flour, rice, cosmetics and other household products will go up on Jan. 2, a newspaper reported Friday.

According to the Budapest daily Nepszabadsag, bread and other bakery goods would rise by 30 per cent, management officials at food trading companies said.

The paper said prices would rise for the other listed products but did not specify by how much because under new regulations, wholesalers can only suggest retail prices.

Final prices will be determined by market conditions, the paper said.

The state railroads have announced that domestic fares would increase by 80 per cent and the national telephone company is planning a 150 per cent hike in phone charges.

Postal services are going up by 40 per cent and municipal bus fares by 55 per cent early next year.

The increases are necessary to offset dwindling state subsidies, slashed by the government as it tries to pass through parliament a 1991 budget projecting a 78 billion forint (\$1.3 billion) deficit. The austerity measures are a precondition for credit from the International Monetary Fund.

Price rises, falling output put Bulgaria in a crisis

SOFIA (AP) — Prices on basic foods, consumer items and services have risen dramatically since May while overall output has dropped, leading the state news agency BTA to declare the country in an "emergency situation."

Prices were 46.9 per cent higher on average in November than in May, according to a report by the Central Statistics Office.

Food price increases averaged 30.4 per cent on average and prices on other goods rose an average of 54.4 per cent. Services went up 21.9 per cent, while rents and taxi fares doubled.

But stores remain barren of many staples despite the spiraling prices and rationing.

Overall production in the country is expected to drop by 15-17 per cent for the year, BTA said.

Yugoslavia devalues dinar, faces key year in 1991

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic Friday announced a 22.2 per cent devaluation of the dinar against the Deutsche mark to try to save the country from economic collapse.

Markovic, unveiling his government's policies for the coming year, told parliament that 1991 would decide whether Yugoslavia would survive or disintegrate, because of economic crisis and political and ethnic rivalries among its six republics.

"The coming year is key, not only for the success or failure of reform but for the survival of Yugoslavia," Markovic said.

Markovic said the government had agreed to fix the exchange rate at nine dinars to one mark after keeping it at seven dinars

since last Jan. 1.

He said the decision would come into force Jan. 1. The devaluation would give exports a boost that would outweigh any surge of inflation it caused, Markovic said.

Yugoslav and Western economists had estimated that the dinar was up to 80 per cent overvalued. Yugoslav exporters said they were being crippled by the 7.1 exchange rate.

Yugoslavia has been drifting into political and economic chaos since the death in 1989 of communist ruler Josip Broz Tito after 35 years in power.

The decline accelerated this year as free elections ended 45 years of communist rule in four of the country's six republics and increased political divisions in the multi-ethnic federation.

Rivalries between the rival republics have deepened the economic crisis by blocking Western-style reforms launched by Markovic at the start of 1990 and discouraging foreign investors.

Foreign debts total \$19 billion, industrial output is falling and annual inflation is approaching 120 per cent. The foreign trade deficit is more than \$4 billion.

He called for wage cuts at loss-making firms, large cuts in public spending and held out the hope that annual inflation would be restricted to 30 to 40 per cent in 1991.

He demanded a long-stalled overhaul of the banking system and ordered republics demanding more independence of federal laws to stop withholding payments into government funds.

Falling U.S. economic index signals deepening recession

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. government's main gauge for predicting the economy's course fell for a fifth straight month in November, the Commerce Department said Friday, adding to evidence that America is slipping deeper into recession.

Economists said the steep 1.2 per cent drop in the November index of leading indicators suggests no quick end to the slowdown and that lower interest rates are needed to stimulate business activity.

"I don't trust leading indicators by itself but it is confirming evidence of what we are seeing everywhere in the economy, which is that things are going downhill in a hurry," said David Wyss, senior vice-president of DRI/McGraw Inc. in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Thursday, the department said orders for long-lasting dur-

able goods like cars and refrigerators plunged 10.5 per cent in November, matching a record in January when orders tumbled at the sharpest rate in 32 years, since records were started.

Orders are one component of the broad-based leading indicators index, which has been skid-

dging steadily since July.

The November decline followed a revised fall of 1.3 per cent in October and 0.8 per cent in September. A string of three or more drops in the basket of economic indicators is considered a reliable predictor of a shrinking economy.

"As far as the economy is concerned, there's no reason for optimism," said Ward McCarthy, managing director at Stone and McCarthy Research Associates Inc. in New York.

"There's nothing you can point at that would suggest the

bottom is near," McCarthy added.

Wyss said it was troubling that major commercial banks have not lowered prime lending rates in response to the Federal Reserve's board's half percentage point cut on Dec. 19 in its trend-setting discount rate to 6.5 per cent.

Lower prime rates are likely early in January, Wyss said, but it may not be enough to reinvigorate consumer confidence and boost corporate willingness to spend and invest.

"I think the Fed is going to have to lower interest rates more than they have to encourage more private-sector activity," Wyss said. He expects a move as early as next week with a lowering of the federal funds rate on overnight loans to 6.75 per cent.

The decline last month in leading indicators, which are intended to reveal the direction of

the economy in six to nine month's time, was broad-based and sharp. It exceeded Wall Street economists' expectations of a 0.6 per cent decline.

Eight of 11 indicators in the index fell in November, led by weaker orders for consumer goods, lower commodity prices, smaller order backlog, fewer plant and equipment orders, more unemployment insurance claims, a shorter work week, a smaller money supply.

Three indicators were positive: Higher stock prices, slower vendor deliveries and improved consumer expectations.

Financial markets suffered under a drumbeat of bad economic news this week, and Friday the dollar's value and government bond prices weakened. Stock prices were also weaker after the report on leading indicators was published.

FAO appeals for urgent action to avert famine across Africa

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations issued an urgent appeal Friday for food aid to avert a massive famine drought on by wars and drought across Africa.

A report by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warned that food aid needs for 1991 were expected to increase sharply at a time when global supplies were in decline and Africa faced severe balance of payments difficulties.

The report said two successive years of drought had caused crop failures countries bordering the Sahel from Mauritania in the west to Ethiopia in the east.

"Of most concern is the rapidly deteriorating situation in Sudan and the continuing food emergency in northern Ethiopia," it said.

It warned that widespread loss of life would be inevitable in parts of these countries unless nearly two million tonnes of food arrived next year.

"Only early action will avert food shortages and widespread suffering in 1991," it said.

Starvation caused by drought and civil wars in Ethiopia and Sudan killed an estimated 1.7 million people in the 1980s.

External food aid and logistic support will also be needed in several Sahelian countries in West Africa, where cereal harvests declined from 7.95 million tonnes to 7.5 million tonnes over the last year.

The report urged support for speedy deliveries of food to populations starving as a result of displacement by war in several countries, particularly Angola, Liberia and Mozambique.

The 10-month-old civil war in Liberia has caused the displacement of 850,000 people who now rely on food aid to survive.

An estimated 110,000 tonnes of food are required for a U.N. programme in Angola to run truck convoys through "peace corridors" to reach 1.9 million drought-stricken people.

Almost two million refugees

returning home to Mozambique face serious food shortages, but only about 50 per cent of the 600,000 tonnes of food pledged by donors for 1990/91 has so far arrived.

The shortfall reflects what the report argues may be a sign that worries over food shortages in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe will divert assistance away from African countries.

"We appeal to the developed countries not to let domestic economic constraints and concern for the problems of eastern Europe divert their attention from the food needs of millions of Africans," FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma said.

Only 2.7 million tonnes of food aid were delivered to sub-Saharan Africa in 1989/90, compared with the 3.9 million tonnes pledged by donors.

But the FAO's early warning system indicated a sharp increase in food aid requirements in 1990/91 compared with levels in the previous year.

Egypt said to commence floating pound next month

CAIRO (R) — Economy Minister Yousri Mustapha was re-

ported Saturday as saying Egypt would start in mid-January gradually to float the pound — a key demand by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In an early edition of the influential Al Gomhouria newspaper, Mustapha also said foreign exchange offices would be allowed to operate legally alongside banks.

The newspaper reported: "Dr. Yousri Mustapha stated that the application of procedures to float the Egyptian pound gradually will be from the middle of next month."

Egypt cracked down on illegal currency traders this month after the dollar hit record highs because of shortages triggered by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The government also banned the 16 legal foreign exchange offices in the free zone city of Port Said from dealing in dollars from Dec. 10.

Al Gomhouria said Egypt's central bank had set a minimum interest rate of 12 per cent on three-month deposits in Egyptian pounds, while leaving banks free to set their own ceilings.

It also said the central bank agreed to scrap a loan interest rate ceiling — apparently in agreement with IMF demands.

Economist said this month the IMF had toughened its stand and demanded Egypt scrap a ceiling it had proposed on the interest rate banks could charge borrowers.

Egypt originally proposed in October a ceiling of 22 per cent, and later suggested 24 per cent, but the IMF had argued any ceiling was pointless, the economists said.

The shortfall, equivalent to almost two per cent of gross national product, assumes that output, which fell sharply in 1990, will not only be maintained in the coming year but even grow by one per cent.

"This is an optimistic hypothesis and we expect the budget to be in for a very heated debate,"

April 1, which still must be approved by parliament, spending would rise 6.2 per cent. The plan is based on a government forecast that economic growth will slow to 3.8 per cent from 5.2 per cent this fiscal year.

Public works spending would rise six per cent to 6.59 trillion yen (\$52.5 billion), reflecting pressure from the United States for Japan to spend more money on infrastructure projects at home in a bid to reduce the stubborn bilateral trade imbalance.

Last minute lobbying by the foreign ministry won a proposed increase in foreign aid of eight per cent to \$83.1 billion (¥8.54 billion).

Newspapers reported that the finance ministry argued that the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning

Venezuelan economy recovers

CARACAS (R) — Venezuela's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 4.4 per cent this year, a sign of recovery two years into the government's economic reform programme, central bank president Pedro Timoco said Friday.

It also reflects the disintegration of trade with other countries in the former communist Comecon trade bloc, which will start trading in hard currency next year instead of using a barter system denominated in roubles.

Timoco said the government aimed to seek private investment wherever possible.

"It is all a matter of replacing state investments with private ones," he said.

Romania has also been hit by the Gulf crisis, which pushed up oil prices and cut off trade with Iraq, which had been settling its \$1.7 billion debt to Romania with crude oil.

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Japanese cabinet approves 70.35 trillion yen budget

TOKYO (AP) — The cabinet Saturday approved a proposed budget of 70.35 trillion yen (\$521.1 billion) for fiscal 1991 that emphasises increased spending on foreign aid and public works.

The growth rate in defence spending would be the lowest in three years, with the plan emphasising military logistics improvement over weaponry to reflect the relaxation of cold war tensions.

Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto described the national spending plan as "a 'daily life-oriented' budget, designed to improve the quality of national life," a reference to projects such as sewers, airports and roads.

Under the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning

Romania plans \$1b budget deficit for '91

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's reforming government announced plans Friday for a \$1 billion budget deficit in 1991, after a year of turbulence following the overthrow of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu last December.

Finance Minister Theodor Stolojan told reporters the first budget to be submitted to parliament in 50 years would show a deficit of 37 billion lei (\$1.05 billion).

The shortfall, equivalent to almost two per cent of gross national product, assumes that output, which fell sharply in 1990, will not only be maintained in the coming year but even grow by one per cent.

"This is an optimistic hypothesis and we expect the budget to be in for a very heated debate,"

Stolojan said. The deficit reflects falling production and plummeting exports as Romania ends its first year of economic restructuring since it embarked on the painful transition to a market economy after last year's revolution.

It also reflects the disintegration of trade with other countries in the former communist Comecon trade bloc, which will start trading in hard currency next year instead of using a barter system denominated in roubles.

The nation's oil sector grew by 3.8 per cent while the non-petroleum sector expanded by 3.8 per cent, and inflation dropped to 36.5 per cent, after a record 81 per cent in 1989, Timoco told reporters at a news conference.

But unemployment for the year reached 10 per cent, a 0.4 per cent increase over the 1989 rate, he said.

Colombia presses banks

BOGOTA (R) — The Colombian government said Friday it was deferring for 90 days repayments on its \$6 billion debt with foreign commercial banks.

A statement from the monetary council, which sets monetary policy, said the government would defer for 90 days payments on public debt due to banks between Jan. 1 and March 28.

Local news reports said the decision would affect about \$200 million of repayments.

Officials said the government had taken the decision at the request of foreign banks drawing up a new four-year financing package for the government of President Cesar Gavira.

They said the big foreign banks wanted the step to pressure smaller banks, which might

drag their heels, into joining the new financing package which will run from 1991 to 1994.

"It's like saying I won't pay you unless you cooperate with the next loan," one official, who asked not to be identified, said. "It's nothing to get alarmed about."

Colombia announced last month it had reached agreement in principle on a new \$1.75 billion financing agreement with a 13-bank advisory committee led by the U.S. Chemical Banking Corp.

The official said the deferral would only affect commercial bank debt.

Colombia has a total foreign debt of \$16.2 billion. It is the only Latin American nation not to have rescheduled its foreign debt during the debt crisis of the 1980s.

They said the big foreign banks wanted the step to pressure

13 die in fresh S. Africa violence

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Thirteen people died in scattered nationwide violence after a Christmas lull, including four killed in a faction fight in eastern Natal province, police said Saturday.

The Inkatha Freedom Party, meanwhile, criticised plans by the rival African National Congress (ANC) to intensify a mass action campaign in Natal, where virtual warfare between the black opposition groups has killed thousands.

A police unrest report distributed by the independent South African Press Association (SAPA) said 11 of the deaths occurred in Natal, power base of Zulu-dominated Inkatha. The report, which covered the previous 24 hours, provided few

details of the incidents.

Four people were killed and 11 houses set alight near Greytown in what police described as a faction fight, which usually involves Inkatha supporters against Xhosas and other blacks loyal to the ANC.

SAPA reported three of the victims were shot to death. Another four people died of stab wounds near Port Shepstone, the police report said. It provided no further information.

Two people died when police fended off a stone-throwing mob by firing tear gas, service pistols and shotguns near Koster, a town 100 kilometres northwest of Johannesburg, the police report said.

It said a police vehicle was damaged and one officer injured

in the stoning. Two bodies with stab wounds were found near Creighton in Natal, the report said, and the burned body of a black man was found near Port Shepstone.

Inkatha and the ANC have been feuding for years over methods of fighting the apartheid system of racial segregation and white dominance.

President F. W. De Klerk has pledged to eliminate apartheid and negotiate a new constitution that would give blacks political power.

The white-led government and the ANC, the largest opposition group, have held talks aimed at setting up the constitutional negotiations.

An Inkatha statement late Friday protested ANC plans for increased demonstrations, strikes and other mass action in Natal beginning Jan. 13 to further pressure the government for change.

ANC and Inkatha supporters have strained the talks. The violence has killed more than 5,000 people in Natal in five years, and spread to Johannesburg-area black townships in August, killing another 1,000 people.

The ANC blames Inkatha for the faction fighting, alleging Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi wants to broaden his power base beyond Natal, the traditional Zulu homeland.

Inkatha accuses the ANC of trying to dominate the black opposition movement.

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Walesa proposes young MP as prime minister

WARSAW (R) — President Lech Walesa Saturday proposed Jan Krzysztof Bielecki as Poland's new prime minister, the presidential spokesman said.

Bielecki, 39, is a Solidarity member of the lower house of parliament (Sejm) and a leader of a small but influential free market party called the Liberal Democratic Congress.

President spokesman Andrzej Drzyzginski said Walesa had sent a formal motion to parliament nominating Bielecki. The nomination must be approved by the Sejm before Bielecki can succeed outgoing Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

A former academic, Bielecki is a longtime Solidarity adviser on economic issues.

An advocate of radical free market policies, he is expected

to keep Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz at his post and form a team of technocrats that will give him support for faster economic change.

"The government should be a team of professionals who are united by some feeling of common ideals," he said in a recent newspaper interview.

Bielecki favours far quicker privatisation of the Polish economy than Mazowiecki. He has said his proposals are so far-reaching that they should be put to a referendum.

Walesa has been seeking a new prime minister since his election as president on Dec. 9.

Mazowiecki, premier for 15 months, resigned after a humiliating defeat by Walesa and emigre businessman Stanislaw Tyminski in the first-round presidential vote last month.

It said the party personnel must be transferred to farm work and construction to meet Cuba's needs in the face of

Moscow prepares to cut economic aid to Cuba

MOSCOW (AP) — While the Soviet Union prepares to cut economic aid to Cuba next month and some lawmakers question future political ties, its longtime ally in the Caribbean is bracing for the worst.

Cuban President Fidel Castro Friday spoke of impending dismissals of Communist Party officials during a parliamentary session on ways to restructure the island nation's political and economic system, the Havana-based news agency Prensa Latina reported.

"Castro expressed that the Central Committee had reached excessive levels of personnel," said an agency dispatch monitored in Mexico City.

"If they (Cubans) continue the so-called 'old course,' we'll let them continue. But foreign aid won't be as it was before," said Nikolai V. Neyland, a member of the Supreme Soviet's Foreign Affairs Committee.

The Kremlin maintains it will stand by Castro politically. But Castro's unflagging rejection of Soviet-style reform may influence the national supreme Soviet legislature when it comes to debating a foreign aid bill.

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Kaufi appointed 18 new members to his 21-member team — his third cabinet since taking office in August 1989 — in the face of strong pressure from the powerful bosses of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

The party barons had wanted the cabinet revamped to reward loyal subordinates with coveted cabinet posts.

Kaufi had opposed this because of mounting problems and sought to delay a reshuffle at least until January. But he had been forced to give in, political analysts said.

Kaufi was hand-picked by the party bosses as a stop-gap premier after they suffered a series of setbacks in sex and stock scandals. But he had never managed to win any influence among them.

He registered some success in the latest reshuffle by blocking demands to bring in figures implicated in past scandals.

He was careful to choose ministers who were free of any links with the damaging recruit stock peddling racket that shook the party in 1988-1989.

Only former Brigadier-General Dimitrios Ioannides, who joined the 1967 coup and then ousted Papadopoulos from power in 1973, will remain in jail. He is serving a life sentence.

Ioannides is loathed by many for inspiring a brief coup on the independent, mainly Greek-speaking island of Cyprus in July 1974. It triggered a Turkish invasion and led to the island's military partition.

Barry bows out as Washington mayor

WASHINGTON (AP) — By any measure, 1990 was a terrible year for Mayor Marion Barry. It began with his videotaped arrest in a drug sting, and saw him convicted of cocaine possession and defeated for a lesser office. At the end, his wife moved out on him.

Barry, once one of the nation's most prominent and promising black politicians, is set to leave office on Jan. 2 unenvied and with a six-month jail sentence hanging over his head.

But the former civil rights worker, who has relished the underdog's role in a 30-year career in the public eye, insists his chin is up — even after being forced to abandon plans to run for a fourth, four-year term and suffering a humiliating defeat in his bid instead for a city council seat.

"Some people would be sad, other people would be disappointed ... sort of downcast," Barry said in an interview. "I feel relieved. Some people would feel regret, but that's not here with me — maybe it ought to be, but it's not."

But detractors and supporters alike help but wonder at the promising future once held by a man who left behind the bleak poverty of his boyhood in Itta Bena, Mississippi, to become a foot soldier in the civil rights movement and later the unrivaled star of Washington's local politics.

"On the surface, this inventory looks huge," the classified report said. "In reality... they have very limited operational capabilities, and have become very expensive to operate and maintain."

The report admitted that "in an honest-to-goodness encounter, the capacity of our men-of-war to sustain as a viable naval force is extremely doubtful."

Among its other deficiencies, the Philippine Navy has no capability against submarines, missile attack or mine warfare.

Dependence on the U.S. Navy is often illustrated during typhoons, air and sea accidents and other disasters when Philippine authorities turn to the Americans because they lack the capability for their own search and rescue operations.

Last year, the navy received 16 per cent of the defence budget with the army and the Philippine Constabulary receiving more than half.

Realising the need to modernise their navies and some are in good shape," said Joris Janssen-Lok, naval editor of the respected Jane's Defence Weekly in London. "But this country is indeed deplorable."

"There is an urgent need to upgrade the navy, but realistically, we cannot afford it," said Sen. Ernesto Maceira, chairman of the Senate Defence Committee. "We have to subsidise rice, fuel, schools, buy medicines — basics first."

The vintage ships have poor navigational equipment and inadequate anti-pollution maritime devices, according to a secret navy report obtained by the Associated Press. The report said Philippine warships average 41 years of age, compared with 19 for the Indonesian Navy and 13 for the Malaysians.

"It's not safe or effective to have these floating coffins used," admitted a senior navy officer, who spoke on condition he not be named.

The demise of the Nueva Vizcaya, which spent its last few

years being towed from dock to dock because its engine was inoperable, left the navy 22 patrol ships, 21 transport vessels, 85 small craft and 14 aircraft.

The saga of the patrol ship Nueva Vizcaya, which sank on Nov. 14 off Cebu, typifies the problems facing the navy, a fleet of "floating coffins" in the words of one official and the stepchild of a poorly equipped armed forces.

Although a nation of 7,100 islands, with more coastline than the continental United States, the Philippines has the most primitive navy in South East Asia.

"Being an archipelago, we must become a sea power or we will be powerless," navy chief Rear Admiral Mariano Dumanas said in a recent interview.

The navy's inventory consists mostly of World War II hand-me-downs from the United States, including the Nueva Vizcaya, which was built in July 1942 and once known as the Alens.

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